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DICKEY GETS BLUE JAYS BACK ON TRACK

KNUCKLEBALLER PITCHES HIS FIRST COMPLETE GAME OF THE SEASON, HELPING TORONTO AVOID A TAMPA BAY SWEEP PAGE 49

AG: Law? What law?

The attorney general says he doesn't know what's stopping Toronto's top cop from talking about potential Ford links to a gang investigation PAGE 2

Dare to take the plunge

Truth/Dare: A Satire invites audience members to steal some of the spotlight in a send-up of Madonna's famous 1991 tour documentary PAGE 22

This is rehab done right

A program helmed by a former prostitute is joining forces with Texas law enforcement to give jailed women a chance at a new life PAGE 14

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

'Get on board' with transit fees: Wynne

Big Move. Premier says infrastructure investment is too vital to be neglected

Premier Kathleen Wynne says she's not afraid to talk about taxes, fees, tolls or whatever it takes to get the money to pay for massive transit and transportation improvements in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

In speaking to Canada 2020, a left-leaning Ottawa-based think-tank Wednesday, Wynne said something has to be done to alleviate gridlock in the GTHA and that it's going to cost a ton of money.

"Yes, we need to pay for it. And so our government is going to find new revenue tools for infrastructure improvements in the GTHA. This conversation does not scare me," she said.

Wynne has welcomed a Metrolinx gridlock report, saying it at least shows the problem is finally about to be tackled with a short list of options for raising $50 billion over 25 years for its "Big Move" plan.

Quoted

"We will not introduce revenue tools outside of Toronto to pay for infrastructure and transportation inside Toronto."

Premier Kathleen Wynne

"We need to draw a line in the sand when it comes to infrastructure investment. People need to get on board," the premier stated in her speech.

She said to do nothing is not an option.

Wynne said the Liberal government "must show people that transportation and transit in this province are essential to creating jobs, building our regional economies, and giving people communities where they want to live, work and raise their kids."

It has been estimated that it could cost Ontarians $477 per household each year to pay for the aggressive transit plan put forward by Metrolinx, which has already met hostile reaction from many taxpayers.

"The (revenue) tools that we employ in the GTHA will be fair, practical and directly invested in solving specific transportation issues," said Wynne.

"We will not introduce revenue tools outside of Toronto to pay for infrastructure and transportation inside Toronto."

Wynne said while the province is prepared to put up billions of dollars over the next several years, she will also be lobbying for a national transit and transportation strategy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LOVE RULES THE DAY

Gay-rights activists react outside the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday to news the top court had struck down a controversial federal law that defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman, a major victory for supporters of same-sex marriage. The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) had denied married gay and lesbian couples in the United States the same rights and benefits that straight couples have long taken for granted. More coverage, page 13.

ANTONOV MLADEN/GETTY IMAGES

Attorney general doesn't know what law stops cops from talking about Ford

Mayoral crack scandal.
Chief Bill Blair has kept silent on whether Ford is under investigation

Attorney General John Gerretsen said he does not know what law is preventing Police Chief Bill Blair from commenting on whether Mayor Rob Ford is under criminal investigation.

"You'd have to ask him about what law he's citing," Gerretsen told Torstar News Service on Wednesday.

Blair has repeatedly refused to answer questions about any potential Ford link to the Project Traveller drugs-and-guns investigation, whether there is a criminal probe of the mayor's office or if police have recovered a video appearing to show him smoking crack cocaine.

News of the video launched weeks of turmoil and turnover in the mayor's office, which continued Wednesday with the disclosure that a sixth staffer had resigned and another was suspended for a week without pay.

The chief said last week that he has received legal advice from the Ministry of the Attorney General's office and has referenced the Criminal Code and the Police Services Act, saying he is "following that law to the letter."

On Wednesday, police spokesperson Mark Pugash said the chief advised him that he got his advice from James Cornish, the assistant deputy attorney general and former SIU director.

"He takes his legal advice from Crown attorneys, not politicians," Pugash said on behalf of Blair.

Attorney General John Gerretsen doesn't know what is stopping the police from revealing whether Rob Ford is being investigated. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Normal to seek counsel

"From time to time, the police — before laying a charge — will consult with one of the many Crown attorneys that we have to get some legal advice."
Attorney General John Gerretsen

Cornish did not comment to Torstar.

Gerretsen stressed that it is not unusual for a police chief to consult with lawyers in his ministry.

"Let's get one thing clear: the police do investigations. If those investigations lead to a charge, then the Crown prosecutors deal with the charge in court, etc.," the attorney general said.

"From time to time, the police — before laying a charge — will consult with one of the many Crown attorneys that we have, to get some legal advice with respect to that charge," he said.

"If the police chief says that he did that, then he did that. I don't know who he did that with. We've got … over 1,000 Crowns and assistant Crowns in the province of Ontario, and those kind of discussions may go on from time to time."

The province's top lawyer insisted he couldn't say much more about Blair.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Chaos as usual

The turmoil in Ford's office continued this week.

- **On Tuesday,** Ford suspended his director of operations and logistics, David Price.
- **On Wednesday,** a city spokesperson confirmed that aide Christopher Fickel is no longer employed by the mayor's office.

Poll results

Unofficial mayoral race heating up

Olivia Chow's commanding lead in the mayoral polls has slipped, setting up a potential battle between resilient Rob Ford and consensus-builder John Tory, according to a Forum Research survey.

"This race is up for grabs," Forum president Lorne Bozinoff said in an interview Wednesday.

"There is no front-runner now.... This could be a real battle for the ages."

Chow, a New Democrat MP, still wins all of the various two-way, three-way and four-way matchups put to 1,239 Torontonians in a phone survey on Tuesday.

But Chow's margin in a head-to-head match has slipped to 53 per cent to Ford's 42 per cent support, with 5 per cent undecided.

John Tory, the radio host, former Ontario PC leader and 2003 mayoral candidate now gauging support for a run, would handily beat Ford head-to-head 52 per cent to 35 per cent, the poll suggests.

Putting all three in the ring, if the vote were held now, would see Chow win with 40 per cent, trailed by Ford at 30 per cent and 25 per cent for Tory.

Metro recently reported that TTC chair Karen Stintz, who split with Ford over transit, has begun to build a campaign team for her 2014 bid.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Driving still eclipses other ways to work

Commuting. While taking the bus, subway or light rail is becoming increasingly popular, it's still no contest when compared to the car

Drivers make their way into the city on Hwy. 404 south of Finch Avenue. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New statistics reveal that getting to work in the GTA via public transit is slowly becoming a more popular option than driving — a trend experts say will likely become more evident in the coming years.

According to numbers from the 2011 National Household Survey released Wednesday, 23.3 per cent of commuters in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area reported travelling to their job either by bus, subway or light rail. That's about 601,000 people out of a total of 2.5 million commuters.

The number is a slight increase from the 2006 census, which indicated that 22.2 per cent of people got to work by public transit.

The voluntary survey sent by Statistics Canada replaced the mandatory long-form census, which was scrapped by the federal government.

Drivers still make up the bulk of GTA commuters, representing 69.9 per cent, or 1.8 million people. That percentage is down from 71.1 per cent in 2006.

As more people flock to the downtown core to live and the cost of owning a car goes up, it is more than likely that the number of people shunning cars for the bus, subway or streetcar will continue to rise, says Franz Hartmann, executive director of the Toronto Environmental Alliance, which is a member of TTCriders, a group of transit advocates.

"I think we're seeing the beginning of a fairly significant trend," he said.

Of the 601,000 public transit commuters in 2011, the majority (45.4 per cent) took the bus — hardly surprising, considering the Toronto CMA's large geographical area that encompasses a number of not-so-close communities, including Milton, Aurora and Newmarket.

The National Household Survey also revealed what most Torontonians already know: the city has the longest average commute time at 32.8 minutes, above the national average of 25.4 minutes. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Slow but steady

"With changing demographics and changing patterns of where people live, more people are realizing that cars are not getting us to where we need to get."

Franz Hartmann, Toronto Environmental Alliance

Skip out on a traffic ticket? It'll land on your tax bill

Caught speeding in Mississauga? Get ready to pay the price in Toronto.

Even the most artful dodger will find it tough to avoid paying traffic tickets with a new pilot project in place that allows municipalities to collect unpaid Provincial Offences Act (POA) tickets through property-tax bills in other cities.

Mississauga will soon join Toronto, Ottawa and three smaller municipalities in the reciprocal 18-month project aimed at recouping some of their combined $1 billion in outstanding POA fines, most of which are for offences such as speeding, not wearing seatbelts, careless driving and not having insurance.

If successful, the project could go provincewide. That would help cities such as Mississauga, with $37.9 million in outstanding POA tickets, recover a much higher percentage of unpaid fines. Some $20 million of that total figure relates to offences committed in Mississauga by people who live outside the city.

There are some hitches. Renters, who don't get property tax bills, won't be touched. Nor will people whose property is owned jointly.

"We want the same authority that the 407 (ETR) has. You don't pay your 407 bill, no matter where you live and where you travel you're refused a new licence (plate)," Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion said shortly after Wednesday's council meeting, where the pilot project received unanimous approval.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hitting the books

Province orders audit of TDSB

The Ontario government has ordered a forensic audit into concerns about expenses and salary increases, among other issues, at the Toronto District School Board after the director of education asked for help.

Education Minister Liz Sandals told reporters Wednesday that "a variety of concerns" sparked her intervention.

"There was a range of what I would call financial management issues. They were identified both by the audit committee and by the acting director."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

War of 1812

T.O. artist hopes to reunite Canadians with their history

A Toronto sculptor, who has won the commission for a monument to the War of 1812, was shocked by how little she once knew about the conflict.

"After (my research), I really feel like we, as Canadians, don't know our own history," said Adrienne Alison. "It's an important thing to popularize this. It's nation-building, I think."

The monument will be unveiled in Ottawa on Parliament Hill next September. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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WESTJET

Paradise to pave over dormant parking lot

No casino, but pink hotel TBD? Free waterfront park to be first step in Ontario Place revitalization

Michael Chan, minister of tourism, culture and sport, announces on Wednesday the first step to revitalize Ontario Place with plans to build a new urban park and waterfront trail. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Joni Mitchell's classic song about paving paradise to put up a parking lot is being turned on its ear at Ontario Place.

Channelling Mitchell's Big Yellow Taxi, Tourism Minister Michael Chan announced on Wednesday that a new 7.5-acre free waterfront park would be built on the site of a parking lot that's been closed to the public for 40 years.

Chan said the park — to be constructed next year and completed in time for the 2015 Pan American Games — is the first step in a lengthy revitalization of Ontario Place, the moribund provincial facility he shuttered 15 months ago.

A competition among landscape architects will be launched next month and a winning bid determined by fall, he said.

But Chan refused to say how much the new park and waterfront trail would cost or even the budget for the initiative, saying he didn't want to tip the government's hand for bidders on the project.

"It will be a moderate park," he emphasized.

While they won't be paving paradise, Chan couldn't say whether Mitchell's dire vision of "a pink hotel, a boutique and a swinging hot spot" would come to fruition on the rest of the sprawling Ontario Place site.

The minister reiterated that "there will be no casino," though there could be "some kind of residential development."

"There will not be cement surrounding Ontario Place," Chan stressed, as he stood against an idyllic backdrop of Toronto's majestic skyline.

'New public backyard'

Michael Chan, minister of tourism, culture and sport, said the government would follow the recommendations of last year's 55-page report by former PC leader John Tory.

- Tory had called for "a new public backyard."
- Development would cover no more than 15 per cent of the prime waterfront site, his report concluded.
- The rest would be devoted to parks, cafés, artist studios, splash pads and other attractions, such as a reborn Forum stage.

Overall, Ontario Place is unlikely to be redeveloped before 2017.

"Today, we launch the first step," the minister said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dave Price. Ford suspends staffer for call to newspaper

Mayor Rob Ford says he suspended family friend Dave Price as his director of operations and logistics because Price "made a mistake."

But Ford refused to say anything more about the one-week suspension without pay that he handed Price on Tuesday.

Price anonymously called a Toronto Sun reporter to complain about a headline on a story about him and refused to identify himself.

The headline was on an article that identified Price — a longtime family friend and the mayor's former football coach — as "Dave," a frequent supportive caller to the weekly Newstalk 1010 radio show co-hosted by Ford and his brother before Price joined the mayor's staff in early April.

Introduced by the Fords at various times as "Dave from Etobicoke," "Dave from Scarborough" and "Dave from Georgetown," Price lauded the Fords and in stinging terms attacked light-rail transit and other initiatives they opposed.

None of them mentioned that he and the Fords had known each other for roughly 30 years and that Price had once coached Rob Ford in football. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Keep fit, have fun!

Body Break duo join Amazing Race

Will Canadians finally see Hal Johnson and Joanne McLeod, the relentlessly upbeat married duo from those "Body Break" public service announcements, finally have a fight?

Let's hope so. The two have been signed on as the most high-profile participants in The Amazing Race Canada so far. CTV announced that the Oakville pair will be in the inaugural Canadian version of the popular reality TV competition when it debuts July 15.

The show is famous for testing the limits of partnerships with difficult challenges. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

First-degree murder

Brampton couple guilty in teen daughter's death

A Brampton couple have been found guilty of first-degree murder in the beating death of their 15-year-old daughter three years ago.

A jury found Fredrick and Elizabeth Gayle guilty on Wednesday, after only five hours of deliberation.

Tiffany Gayle, who was Fredrick's daughter and his wife's stepdaughter, was found dead in her home in June 2010 with signs of trauma to her body.

Throughout the trial, both husband and wife blamed each other for the death. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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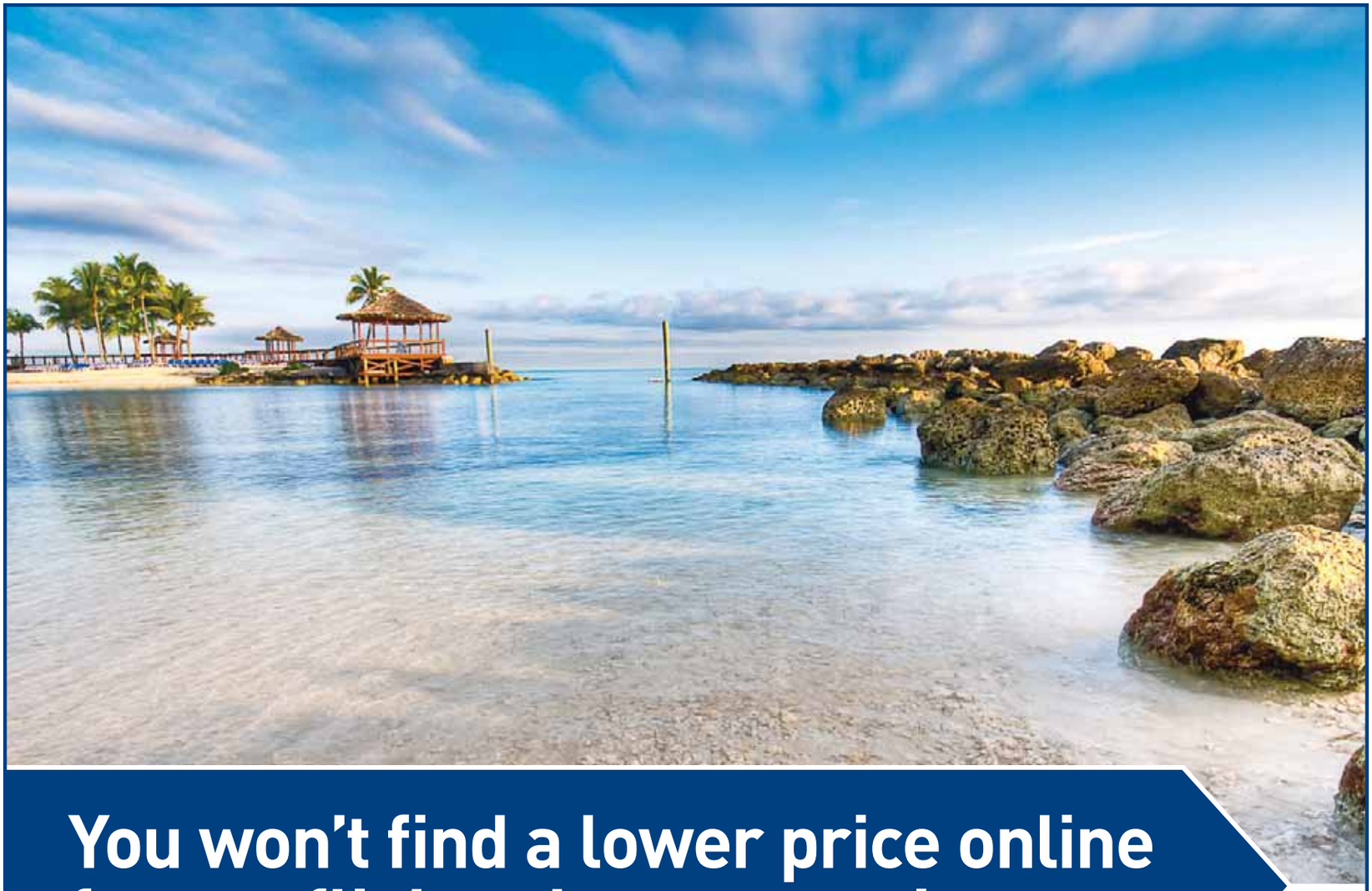

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Canada at work

Statistics Canada released its second batch of figures Wednesday from its voluntary National Household Survey, looking at labour, education, workplace, commuting, work language, mobility and migration. Here's a roundup of four things you need to know:

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Commuting

Some 15.4 million Canadians endure a daily commute to and from work, most of them behind the wheel. Four out of five commuters took a private vehicle, while 12 per cent took public transit, up from 11 per cent in 2006. The disproportionate popularity of driving in the age of climate change may boil down to a single factor: Time. Private-vehicle commuters spent an average of 23.7 minutes getting to work, nearly half the 40.4 minutes it took bus riders.

Post-secondary education

For the first time women have bypassed men in terms of post-secondary education, with 64.8 per cent of working-age women having a post-secondary education, compared with 63.4 per cent of men. Women accounted for 59 per cent of Canadians aged 25 to 34 with a university degree, compared with 47.3 per cent of their 55- to 64-year-old counterparts.

Temporary foreign workers

More than 330,000 workers live and work in Canada as part of the federal temporary foreign worker program — a number that has nearly tripled over the past 10 years, with the bulk of those job-seekers going west in search of work. The program was originally designed to attract skilled employees to address temporary labour shortages. The emphasis shifted in 2002 to low-skilled workers, such as those in the food and beverage industry, construction and retail.

Cyclists

The latest batch of data shows no difference in the percentage of Canadians who rode their bike to work in 2011 and 2006. That number remains unchanged at 1.3 per cent. That works out to 201,785 cyclists out of more than 15 million commuters. Another 880,800 commuters, or 5.7 per cent, reported walking to work each day.

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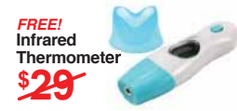

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Ousted Australian sworn back in as PM

Aussie reborn. Former leader resigns after being booted by colleagues in party coup

Kevin Rudd was sworn in as Australian prime minister on Thursday, three years after he was ousted from the same job in an internal government showdown.

His office could not immediately confirm whether Rudd would replace his predecessor, Julia Gillard, in a visit to Indonesia that had been scheduled for next week. Gillard was dumped on Wednesday by colleagues spooked by the party's dismal showing in opinion polls.

Governor-General Quentin Bryce commissioned Rudd within half an hour of Parliament resuming for what is likely to be its last day before elections.

Rudd has yet to say when he will announce his complete cabinet after seven ministers resigned following Gillard's ouster.

Rudd faces a possible no-confidence vote in Parliament, which he will likely survive although a loss could trigger an election as early as Aug. 3.

Gillard tendered her resignation as prime minister on Wednesday night after losing a ballot of ruling parliamentarians to Rudd 57 votes to 45. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Changing course

"We are on course for a catastrophic defeat unless there is change."

New Labour party leader Kevin Rudd, before a vote held to oust Julia Gillard

Ousted politician Julia Gillard speaks to the media. RICK RYCROFT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Environmental Defence. Toxins found in blood of newborns, report shows

Detectable levels of a large number of environmental chemicals have been found in the cord blood of some newborns, raising concerns that Canadian children already carry toxins in their bodies at birth, a report says.

The report by Environmental Defence released Wednesday suggests babies are exposed to chemicals in the womb because pollutants are so pervasive both in the environment and in widely used consumer products.

"This is evidence that our babies — who are extremely vulnerable — are being burdened with a toxic chemical load before they are born," said Maggie MacDonald, the organization's toxics program manager.

Because a growing fetus is going through rapid cell division, exposure to chemicals is particularly worrisome, since some compounds mimic the effects of hormones, the group said.

They tested the umbilical-cord blood of three anonymous newborns in Toronto and Hamilton, finding a total of 137 chemicals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sweet, sweet charity

Buy a doughnut to fund flood relief

Tim Hortons patrons wanting to help with flood relief might want to consider ordering an Alberta Rose with their coffee in the next little while.

The chain restaurant says it has created a special doughnut by that name that will be sold for $1 at its Alberta outlets for a limited time.

Tim Hortons says all the money raised will be donated to Red Cross flood relief efforts in southern Alberta.

The rose-shaped disaster doughnut is vanilla-dipped, has a yellow Venetian cream centre and is topped with pink, red and white strawberry bark. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian ship could be used in researcher's sasquatch odyssey

American researchers believe a high-tech airship created by a company in the Alberta hamlet of Lac La Biche could solve the mystery of the sasquatch once and for all.

Utah-based bigfoot researcher William Barnes is trying to raise $300,000 to buy a helium-filled airship that would quietly float over dense North American forests and use thermal-imaging equipment to film footage of the legendary — not to mention elusive — creature.

An official fundraising drive for the venture, which has been dubbed the Falcon Project, kicked off last Saturday in Oregon with an all-day symposium.

The project's founder said that after a personal encounter with a bigfoot in 1997 and more than a decade spent talking to sasquatch researchers, he came up with the idea to use unmanned aerial surveillance to record the fast-moving nocturnal primate.

"We don't want to bother them, we just want to study them," Barnes said.

That's where Stephen Barkley, president of Remote Aerial Tripod Specialists Inc. (RATS), fits in.

His company in Lac La Biche has designed the aircraft to be used for the ambitious aerial undertaking.

"If it wasn't for his (Barkley's) innovation of this type of airship, this would never work," Barnes said.

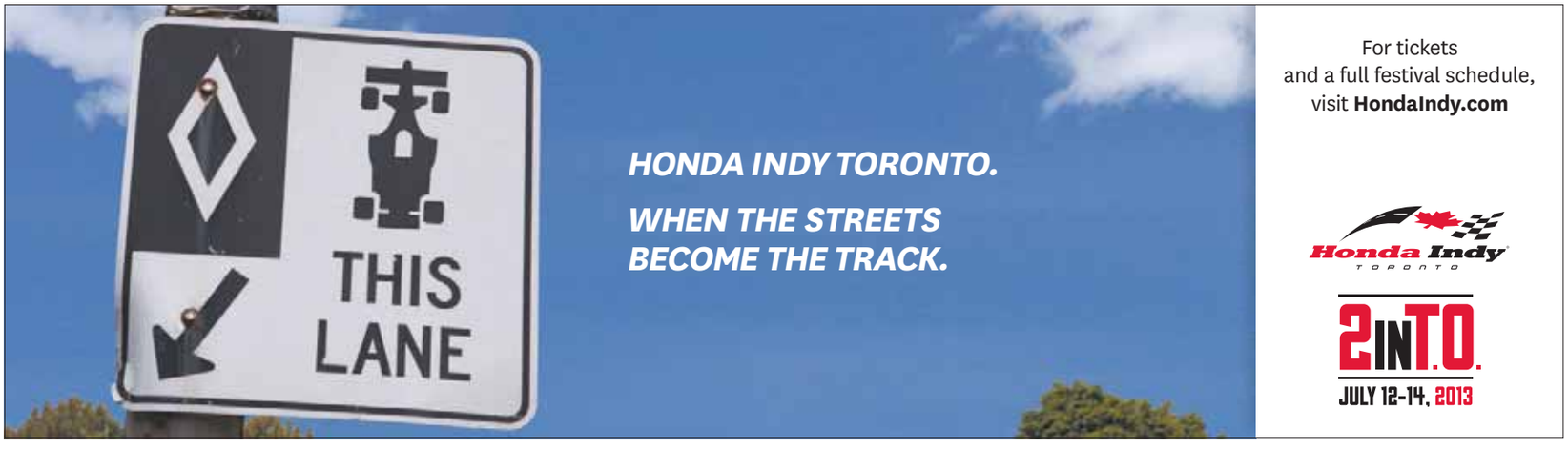
In his 15 years of running RATS, a business that provides blimps and airships for outdoor advertising and photography, the entrepreneur said this is one of the most extraordinary projects he's taken part in. ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO IN EDMONTON

If $300,000 in funding is secured, researchers hope this camera-equipped airship, designed by a Lac La Biche, Alta., company, will photograph the elusive bigfoot. CONTRIBUTED/REMOTE AERIAL TRIPOD SPECIALISTS

Spotted

"I was scared. My heart was beating so hard I could feel it in my eardrums."

William Barnes, describing an encounter with a sasquatch



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Bombshell. Patriots' Hernandez charged with murdering a friend

New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez was arrested and charged Wednesday with murdering a friend.

The bombshell development came more than a week after Boston semi-pro football player Odin Lloyd's bullet-riddled body was found in an industrial park about a mile from Hernandez's home.

Hernandez was taken from his home in handcuffs Wednesday morning,

Soon afterwards, the Patriots announced they had cut him from the team.

Prosecutors said the killing was borne out of a dispute at a Boston nightclub on the night of June 14.

Hernandez was taken from the North Attleborough police station to his court hearing Wednesday afternoon.

Aaron Hernandez
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/POOL PHOTO

About two dozen supporters cheered, some yelling "We love you Aaron."

Hernandez's lawyer, Michael Fee, asked for bail, saying Hernandez is not a flight risk. The judge ordered Hernandez held without bail pending further proceedings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The puck drops. Teen hockey player charged with on-ice assault

A 17-year-old hockey player has been charged with assault causing bodily harm after an on-ice incident.

It happened during a game in Woodstock, police said Wednesday. It's alleged a player was assaulted by another player.

"The decision to lay a criminal charge was not taken lightly and was based on an objective review of the evidence, including video evidence, and on factually based legal opinions from the Crown attorney's office," said Woodstock police Chief Rod Freeman.

The 17-year-old who is charged cannot be identified. He is to appear in court on July 11.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The sex scandal that apparently won't die

Maple Leaf Gardens abuse case. Gordon Stuckless now facing more than 70 charges as more complainants come forward

History has apparently caught up with the man at the centre of the Maple Leaf Gardens sex abuse scandal.

Gordon Stuckless, 64, is facing more than 70 criminal charges after more men came forward alleging they were abused in their youth.

Stuckless turned himself to York Regional Police, who laid a total of 23 new charges of indecent assault on a male, sexual assault and gross indecency.

Stuckless is facing 38 charges relating to 10 complainants in Toronto and another 34 charges from York Region, where seven men have made complaints against him. The charges are for alleged offences between the 1960s and 1985.

Stuckless is set to appear in court Thursday in Toronto, where all of the charges are being tried together.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Infamy

Gordon Stuckless was convicted in 1997 for sex assaults on 24 boys while he was an usher at Maple Leaf Gardens between 1969 and 1988.

- He was originally sentenced to two years less a day, but this was increased to five years — he was out on parole in 2001.

The future?

Will more men accuse Stuckless?

Police believe there may be more alleged victims out there and are urging them to come forward.

Police allege Stuckless would befriend boys between eight and 12 years old and sexually assault them at locations around Toronto and north of the city.

Stuckless has not yet entered a plea.

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Gordon Stuckless: More than 70 charges. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

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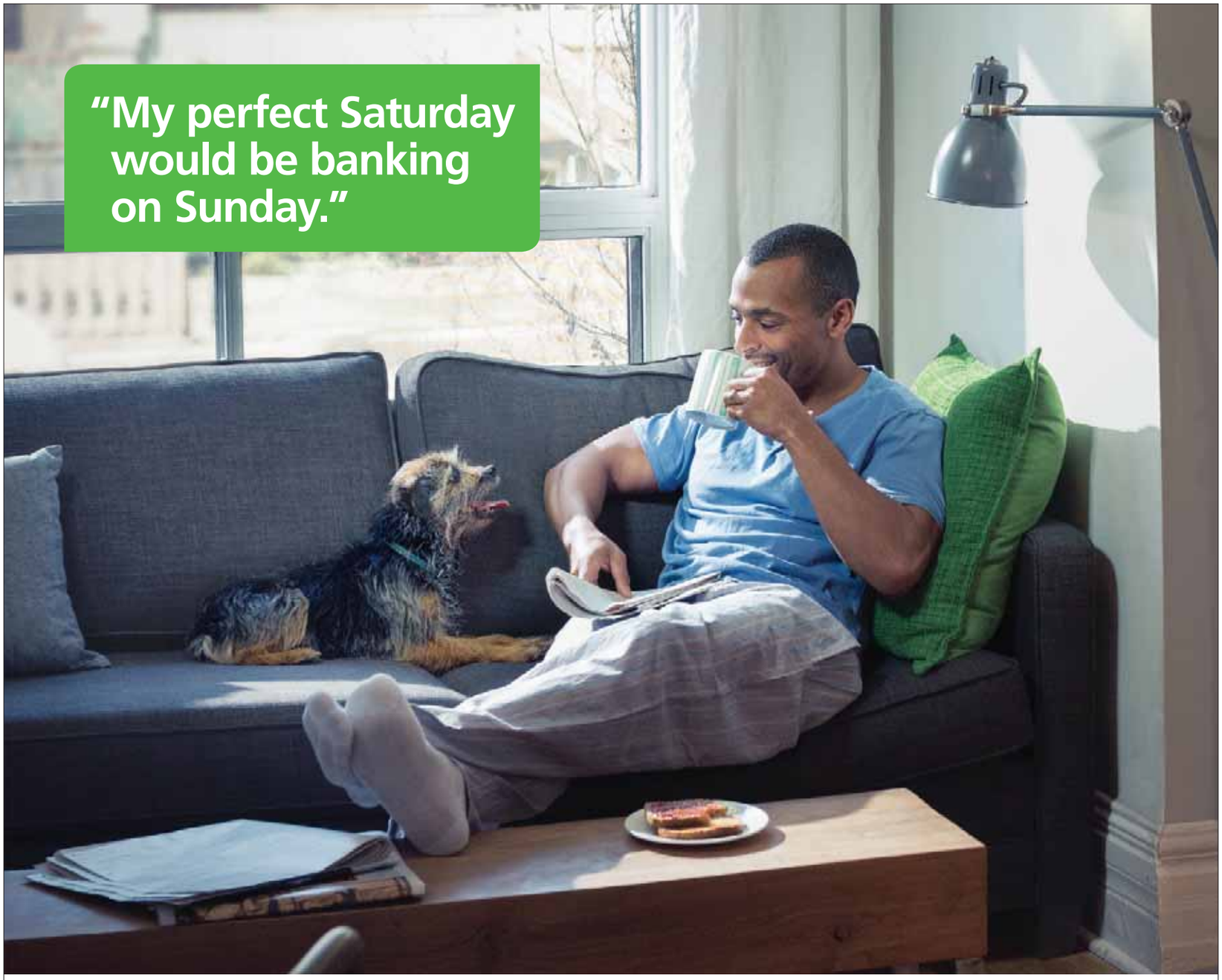

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JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘FREE TO GROW UP AND LOVE AND BE MARRIED’

Gay-pride flags flew outside San Francisco city hall Wednesday — a landmark day for same-sex marriage after two U.S. Supreme Court rulings

A marriage made in Toronto was at the heart Wednesday of a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down the Defense of Marriage Act on a historic day that also cleared the way for same-sex marriage in California, the most populous state in the union.

The ruling on the federal U.S. legislation known as DOMA gives spouses in same-sex unions a full array of tax, health and pension benefits.

The challenge to the legislation was spearheaded by 83-year-old Edith Windsor, a New Yorker, who married her longtime partner Thea Spyer six years ago in Canada, where same-sex marriage has been legal for almost a decade. The couple’s marriage was recognized by New York state, but not by the federal government.

When Spyer died in 2009, the federal government cited DOMA to force Windsor, who’s now ailing, to pay $363,000 in taxes on her late wife’s estate — taxes that wouldn’t have been levied against her if she’d been married to a man.

Windsor wasn’t at the Supreme Court on Wednesday, but watched from her lawyer’s apartment in New York, where she was reportedly jubilant upon word that DOMA had been struck down. The law had been in effect since 1996, when it was signed into law by a now-apologetic Bill Clinton.

“Children born today will grow up in a world without DOMA,” a beaming Windsor told a New York news conference. “And those children who are gay will be free to grow up and love and be married. If I had to survive Thea, what a glorious way to do it.... She would be so pleased.”

Also on Wednesday, the high court cleared the way for same-sex marriage in California by ruling that defenders of Proposition 8, a ban on same-sex marriage, had no constitutional standing. That means a lower court ruling in California that legalized same-sex marriage is again the law of the land.

The two historic rulings will likely transform the United States on same-sex marriage, an issue now widely considered a civil rights battle.

As many legal experts predicted, it was Justice Anthony Kennedy, a libertarian conservative on the panel, who broke partisan ranks on the nine-member panel and voted in favour of striking down DOMA.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Libertarian conservative

“DOMA instructs all federal officials, and indeed all persons with whom same-sex couples interact, including their own children, that their marriage is less worthy than the marriages of others.”

Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in his decision — breaking partisan ranks

Same-sex marriage. Ruling ‘righted a wrong,’ says Barack Obama

President Barack Obama hailed the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling that people in same-sex marriages are entitled to the same federal benefits as heterosexual married couples, declaring the court “has righted a wrong, and our country is better off for it.”

Obama decided in 2011 to stop defending the 1996 law, concluding that it was legally indefensible. In a statement issued while he was flying on Air Force One to Africa Wednesday, Obama said he had directed Attorney General Eric Holder to work with others in his administration to make sure federal law reflects the court’s decision.

“This was discrimination enshrined in law,” he said. “We are a people who declared that we are all created equal — and the love we commit to one another must be equal as well.”

His statement came moments after he telephoned his congratulations to gay rights advocate Chad Griffin and plaintiffs in a California gay marriage case. “Through your courage, you’re helping out a whole lot of people,” Obama told them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Knaapen, left, and his husband John Becker embrace outside the Supreme Court in Washington, Wednesday, after the court cleared the way for same-sex marriage in California. CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘An important step’

Wynne welcomes U.S. decision

Kathleen Wynne

Canada’s only openly gay premier welcomed Wednesday an historic U.S. Supreme Court ruling that gives federal benefits to spouses in same-sex unions, saying she’s “proud that Ontario led the way.”

“I am so happy for our neighbours to the south,” Ontario’s Kathleen Wynne posted on Twitter after the landmark decision.

In a second Tweet, Wynne called the ruling “an important step” for the United States, and included a link to a video in which the Ontario premier talks about the day she married her partner, Jane Rounthwaite. “My own partner Jane was very emotional on that day because she didn’t believe in her lifetime she would ever see such a thing,” the 60-year-old premier said in the video. “It was the culmination of a long struggle.”

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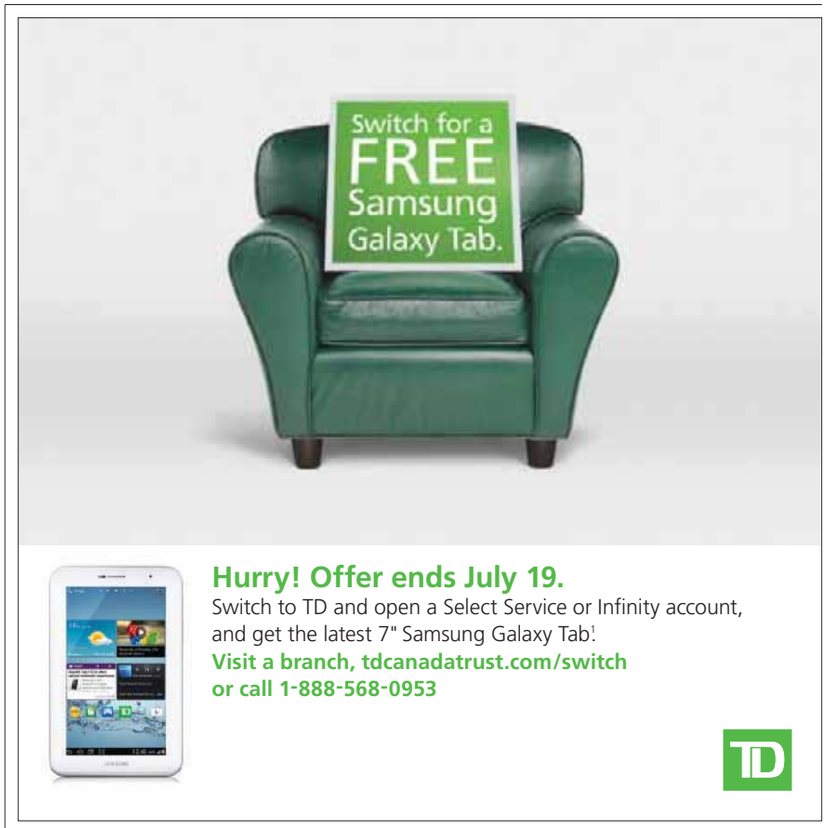

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Program by ex-prostitute treats women as victims, not criminals

Been there, done that. More than 30 women sentenced to the program, and only one or two have relapsed so far

Kathryn Griffin Grinan reacts as Harris County jail inmates sing her praises during a group session earlier this month in Houston. Griffin started and runs a prostitution rehabilitation program called We've Been There Done That. PAT SULLIVAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tricia Chambers began her life heavily dependent on heroin and methadone. From there, she was peddled into child pornography, and by nine she had a full-fledged career in prostitution, alongside her mother. Now 42, Chambers is getting what she believes to be her first real chance — in a downtown Houston cellblock.

There, in stark contrast to Chambers and the other orange-clad inmates, is Kathryn Griffin Grinan — a former prostitute who now dons a business suit and heels as she transforms her non-profit, We've Been There Done That, into a taxpayer-funded program that is teaming up with law enforcement and the court system to reform these women.

The program has been so successful that Texas this session passed into law a bill that requires other large cities to create their own.

In September, Harris County law enforcement focused on adults, teaming with Griffin. Judges began in January sentencing women with numerous misdemeanour prostitution convictions to her program.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Child prostitutes

Court ruling in 2010 was game-changer

Several Texas cities began changing how they treated prostitutes after the state Supreme Court ruled in 2010 that girls 14 and under could not be prosecuted for prostitution.

Dallas and Houston are among the cities that have set up special courts to deal with child prostitutes by putting them in recovery programs. Many, they found, had been victims of sexual or physical abuse. Some were born to mothers who were drug addicts and prostitutes themselves. Others were sold to a pimp, sometimes for cigarettes.

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Boston. Priest who backs ordination of women can't give talk at local parish

Cardinal Sean O'Malley banned an Austrian priest from speaking at a Boston parish because the priest advocates ordaining woman and making celibacy for priests optional.

The Rev. Helmut Schuller was scheduled to speak at Saint Susanna Parish in Dedham on July 17 as part of a 15-city U.S. tour. His talk has been moved to a nearby Unitarian Universalist church, The Boston Globe reported Wednesday.

Terry Donilon, a spokesman for the archdiocese, said in a statement that the archdiocese's policy is "not to permit individuals to conduct speaking engagements in Catholic parishes or at church events when those individuals promote positions that are contrary to Catholic teachings."

Schuller's appearance in Dedham was sponsored by a coalition of Catholic groups, including the lay group Voice of the Faithful and FutureChurch, which advocates opening ordination to all baptized Catholics.

FutureChurch's executive director, Sister Chris Schenk, said she had expected O'Malley to be more sympathetic about Schuller's appearance, because he is dealing with the "ravages" of the priest shortage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Priests' initiative

The Rev. Helmut Schuller is founder of the Austrian Priests' Initiative, which advocates allowing women and married people to become priests as a way to address a priest shortage.

- The initiative organized a Call to Disobedience, which was signed by several hundred priests who pledged to begin serving communion to non-Catholics, promote women's ordination and let trained laity preach.

Child-pornography probe. Dragnet snares 22 men across Atlantic Canada

Two children have been removed from harm and 22 men arrested in Atlantic Canada as part of an investigation by police forces across the region that found millions of pornographic images of children.

The men arrested range in age from 22 to 61 and face charges that include accessing child pornography, possession of child pornography and making available child pornography, as well as several firearms charges.

In one case, a man in Newfoundland and Labrador faces eight charges of voyeurism and one charge of making pornography.

Det.-Const. Chris Purchas of the Toronto Police Service, who is seconded to the federal centre for missing and exploited children, said officers also found and removed two children who were being photographed or filmed without their knowledge.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Det.-Const. Chris Purchas, a Toronto officer seconded to the Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, fields questions about Operation Snapshot II, in Halifax on Wednesday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online sex acts

'Sextortionist' gets 40 years

An Indianapolis man was sentenced Wednesday to 40 years in prison for coercing more than a dozen teenagers in multiple U.S. states into performing sex acts on webcam.

Richard Finkbiner, 40, was charged with operating a "sextortion" scheme that targeted minors across the U.S., some as young as 12 years old.

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Saskatchewan storm

Lightning can strike twice

A Saskatchewan woman says she's survived a lightning strike twice.

Shelley Kessel was driving into Regina Tuesday morning when she saw a flash of blinding light and heard a loud boom. She realized her car had been hit by lightning. About 20 years ago, her family farmhouse also suffered a direct strike. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Missing women case

Castro to undergo competency test

Ariel Castro, 52, who is charged with holding three women — Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight — captive in his Cleveland home for over a decade, will undergo an evaluation to determine if he is mentally competent to stand trial, a judge ordered Wednesday.

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France defamation case

Analyst fined for calling video fake

Media analyst Philippe Karsenty was convicted of defamation and fined 7,000 euros Wednesday for accusing French television network France-2 of staging a video that depicted a young boy being killed in a firefight between Palestinian militants and Israeli forces. The footage was broadcast more than a decade ago.

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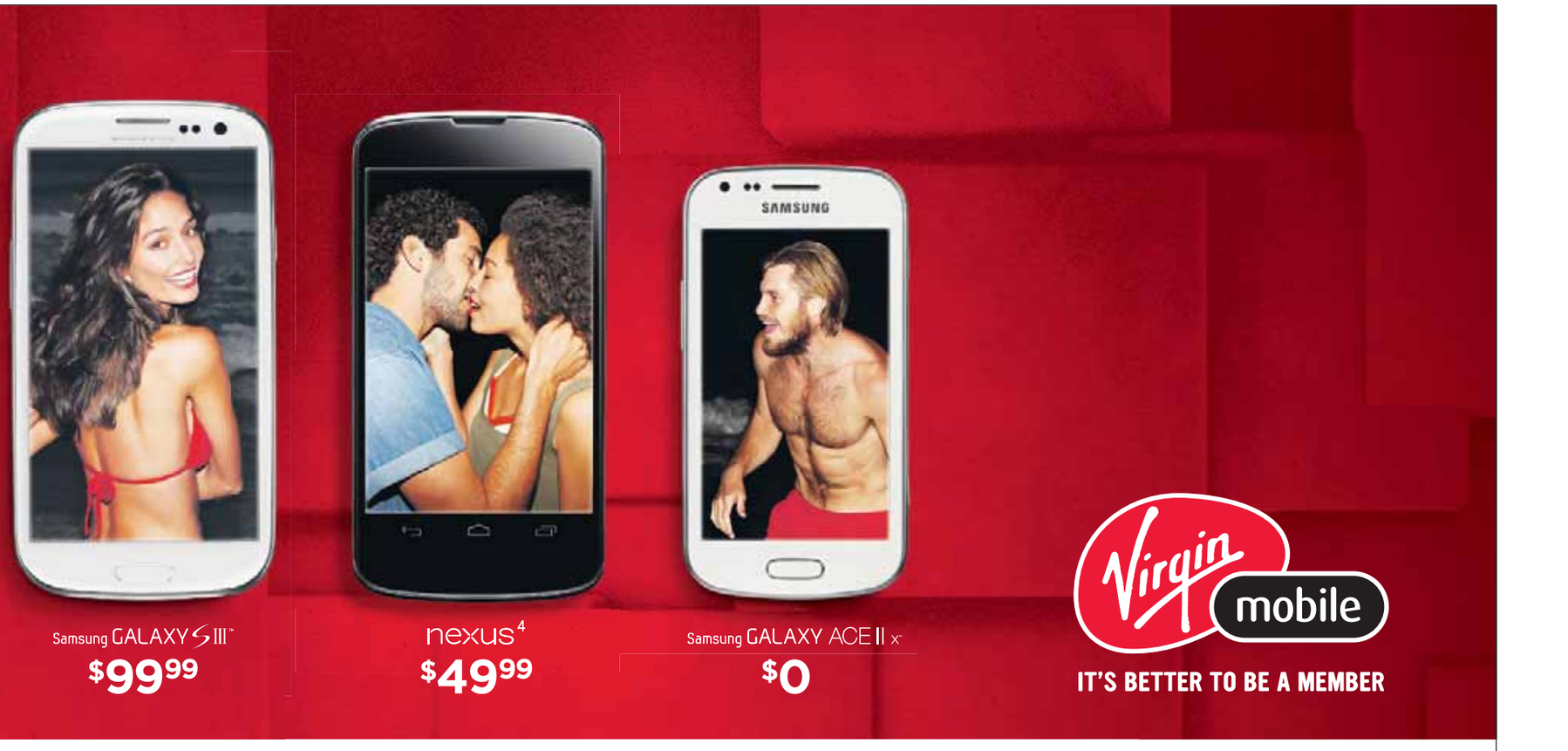

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Reproductive-rights advocates celebrate the defeat of the controversial anti-abortion bill SB5 in Austin on Wednesday. Inset: Wendy Davis. ERICH SCHLEGEL/GETTY IMAGES; INSET: CONTRIBUTED/DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Texas senator becomes overnight sensation

Abortion bill. During marathon speech to block bill, senator's Twitter followers ballooned from 1,200 to more than 79,000

The Texas state senator who spoke for hours against some of the country's toughest proposed abortion restrictions quickly became a political superstar in pink tennis shoes.

Wendy Davis ran out the clock on the special session of the Texas Legislature and killed the bill, but it was her old-fashioned filibuster speech that earned her widespread praise — including a salute from President Barack Obama.

But Gov. Rick Perry on Wednesday called for the Texas Legislature to meet in a second special session to pass the abortion restrictions.

Davis, 50, was on her feet for more than 12 hours Tuesday — actively speaking most of that time while obeying rules against not sitting, leaning or taking breaks for meals or the restroom — in a marathon speech seeking to block a bill that would close nearly every abortion clinic in the nation's second-largest state.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toss this idea around.
Humans learned to throw 2 million years ago: Study

It's a big year for throwing. The greatest closer in baseball history, Mariano Rivera of the Yankees, is retiring. Aroldis Chapman, the Cincinnati Reds reliever, continues to fire fastballs beyond 100 mph.

And now some scientists say they've figured out when our human ancestors first started throwing with accuracy and firepower: Nearly 2 million years ago.

That's what researchers conclude in a study released Wednesday by the journal Nature. There's plenty of skepticism about their conclusion. But the new paper contends that this throwing ability probably helped our ancient ancestor Homo erectus hunt, allowing him to toss weapons — probably rocks and sharpened wooden spears.

Not even a chimp, our closest living relative, can throw nearly as fast as a 12-year-old Little Leaguer, says lead study author Neil Roach of George Washington University.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A new study suggests the ability to throw hard and accurately first appeared in human ancestors 2 million years ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Court ruling

Starbucks baristas ordered to share tips

Starbucks baristas must share their tips with shift supervisors, but assistant managers are left out in the cold, the state's highest court ruled Wednesday.

The Court of Appeals found that shift supervisors do much of the same work as the coffee servers and therefore get to share in the tips. It also ruled that the company, which is based in Seattle, can deny those tips to assistant managers.

The ruling, responding to two lawsuits, backed Starbucks' policy of divvying up the tips, saying it's consistent with labour law.

Hospitality industry groups say the court's decision likely will affect policies at similar restaurants and coffee houses, and will affect 42,000 businesses statewide and a quarter-million hospitality-industry workers in New York City alone.

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-Heather Dyer, Catering & Events Manager

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-Danny DeFrancesco

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Wellies and rucksacks mean its Glastonbury time

Gates opened Wednesday at a dairy farm in southwest England that will be hosting one of the largest music festivals in the world — Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts. While some arts and music festivals struggle to sell tickets, Glastonbury, now in its 43rd year, sold out in minutes before any of the headliners had been confirmed. The festival attracts more than 175,000 people over five days. MATT CARDY/GETTY IMAGES

Selling strategies

Care for some Coke on your cereal?

Get people to swap tea or coffee for soft drinks with breakfast — that's one of the strategies Coca-Cola's main bottler in Europe is targeting to boost sales in the United Kingdom.

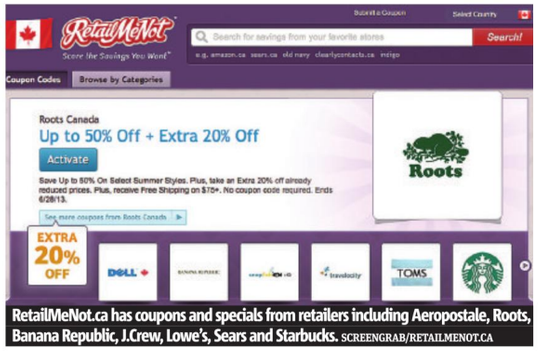
Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. issued a report last week identifying ways it can increase sales over the next five years in the region. One category entitled Complete the Meal notes that breakfast is often referred to as the most important meal of the day, with about a quarter of all drinks being consumed before 10 a.m.

"How do we motivate people to make soft drinks, like smoothies, juices and other on-the-go products, part of their morning ritual in the same way as tea or coffee?" the report asks.

In a statement, the firm said it was referring specifically to smoothies and juices in suggesting breakfast as an area for growth. Soda consumption has been fading in developed countries such as the U.S. amid concerns that it fuels weight gain. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RetailMeNot offers Canadian website

Online deals. Coupon destination aims to create 'more relevant' experience for buyers north of the border



RetailMeNot.ca has coupons and specials from retailers including Aeropostale, Roots, Banana Republic, J.Crew, Lowe's, Sears and Starbucks. SCREENGRAB/RETAILMENOT.CA

Some savvy shoppers never complete an online purchase before launching a quick search to see if any money-saving coupons are available online.

The option to insert a coupon or promo code during checkout is a good hint that the e-tailer may be offering discounts to those in the know.

In the U.S. and other markets around the world, RetailMeNot — which logged more than 450 million visits globally in 2012 — is a top destination for finding those coupons.

And plenty of Canadians have also been using the search tool, even if it wasn't set up to offer discounts in Canada.

On Wednesday, the company announced the launch of RetailMeNot.ca, to better serve the scores of Canadians that have already been using the site in search of deals.

"We should've been here probably a while ago," said head of communications Brian Hoyt.

"We've had millions of visits from Canadian consumers coming to the U.S. site and quite frankly we were offering them a sub-optimal experience. Now we've created something that's more relevant to them."

Canadians who visit the site will see coupons and specials from retailers including Aeropostale, Banana Republic, J.Crew, Lowe's, Roots, Sears and Starbucks. Some deals aren't exclusive to the site and are the same specials consumers would see in a flyer or at a store's website. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. *Offer applies to the purchase of a 2013 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD G-BBQG. ‡0% purchase financing offered by GMCL for 84 months on 2013 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD G-BBQG. O.A.C by RBC Royal Bank/TD Auto Finance Services/Scotiabank. Rates from other lenders will vary. Example: $10,000 at 0%, monthly payment is $119.05 for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly/Bi-weekly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Monthly/Bi-weekly payments based on a purchase price of $27,995 with $0 down payment. */‡/***Freight & PDI ($1,550), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2013 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ®Bluetooth is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG Inc. ♦Comparison based on 2012 Wards segmentation: Middle/Cross Utility Vehicle and latest competitive data available and based on the maximum legroom available. Excludes other GM brands. ©The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. ©For more information go to iihs.org/ratings. ††2013 Equinox 2LT, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $33,519. Dealers are free to set individual prices. ∞Valid at participating GM dealerships in Canada only. Retail customers only. Offer ranges from 750 to 3,000 AIR MILES® reward miles, depending on model purchased. No cash value. Offer may not be combined with certain other AIR MILES promotions or offers. See your participating GM dealer for details. Offer expires July 2, 2013. Please allow 4–6 weeks after the Offer end date for reward miles to be deposited to your AIR MILES® Collector Account. To ensure that reward miles are deposited in the preferred balance, Collector should ensure his/ her balance preferences (AIR MILES® Cash balance and AIR MILES® Dream balance) are set as desired prior to completing the eligible purchase transaction. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate this Offer for any reason in whole or in part at any time without notice. ®™Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. and General Motors of Canada Limited. ‡‡0% offers available until July 2, 2013 participating lenders are subject to change. 0% purchase financing offered on approved credit by RBC Royal Bank/TD Auto Finance Services/Scotiabank for 84 months on new or demonstrator 2013 Chevrolet (Sonic LS 1SA, Cruze LS 1SA, Equinox LS). Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $25,595 at 0% APR, the monthly payment is $304.70 for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $25,595. Offer is unconditionally interest-free. Offers apply to qualified retail customers only. Limited time offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ¥Offer only valid from April 2, 2013 to July 2, 2013 (the "Program Period") to retail customers resident in Canada who own or are currently leasing (during the Program Period) a Chevrolet Aveo, Cobalt, Cavalier, Optra, Saturn Ion, Astra, S-Series will receive a $1,000 credit towards the purchase, lease or factory order of an eligible new 2013 Chevrolet Sonic or Cruze. Retail customers resident in Canada who own or are currently leasing (during the Program Period) a Chevrolet Equinox, Tracker or Saturn Vue will receive a $1,000 credit towards the purchase, lease or factory order of an eligible new 2013 Chevrolet Equinox. Only one (1) credit may be applied per eligible vehicle sale. Offer is transferable to a family member living in the same household (proof of address required). This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. The $1,000 credit includes HST/GST/QST/PST as applicable by province. As part of the transaction, dealer will request current vehicle registration and/or insurance to prove ownership. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Void where prohibited by law. Additional conditions and limitations apply. See your GM dealer for details.

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17	PANASONIC	TCL32X5	449	299
23	PANASONIC	TCL32E5	699	399
9	PANASONIC	TCL42E5	799	499
15	SAMSUNG	UN46EH5000	899	699
18	SHARP	LC46LE540	1199	799
24	SAMSUNG	UN50ES6100	1399	998
15	LG	55LM5800	1699	999

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WAS $1499 **1299.99** 60"
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TCP60/55S60
Hi-Def 1080p Plasma
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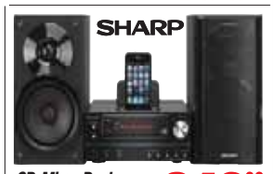

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9	YAMAHA	RXV473B	429	299
19	ONKYO	TXNR515	599	399
12	PIONEER	VSX1122	799	449
10	CUSTOM AUDIO	HRS5	99	49
65	SHARP	HTSL77	449	179
9	JBL	SP150	299	199
10	MIRAGE	MM6	749	299
22	JBL	SB300	599	399

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ECO FEES: Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES) recycling fees apply to most products and will be added at the time of purchase. Example: Digital Still Camera ECO fee: $0.75 / Bookshelf Audio System ECO fee: $7.10/ Display Device >29" ECO fee: $39.50 / Get full details in-store.
*FOR OUR PRICE GUARANTEE DETAILS, SEE OUR WEBSITE. Errors sometimes occur. Corrections to any errors will be posted in our stores. ** iPod/iPhone/iPad/Tablet or Accessories are not included with purchase unless otherwise stated. See website for complete details.

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Cambridge Club, Richmond Tower, Sheraton Centre, 100 Richmond St. W, 11th Floor
Please use the Richmond St. entrance, between York St. and Sheppard St., beside Quinn's Steakhouse
To register: call toll-free 1-855-554-5456 or email team.novo.nordisk@gcicanada.com

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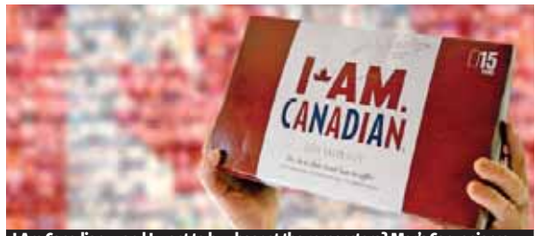
Booze. Sousa won't rule out corner-store alcohol sales

Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa isn't shutting the door to selling alcohol in convenience stores — a move the governing Liberals have long opposed.

Asked repeatedly Wednesday whether he'd allow convenience stores to sell booze, Sousa wouldn't rule it out.

He said there are no plans to change the structure of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, which turned over $1.65 billion to the province last year.

The Crown corporation is expanding its reach by setting up what it calls Express outlets inside 10 grocery stores, as well as adding more retail stores, Sousa said. But he'll always keep looking at alternatives that would support Ontario's economy. THE CANADIAN PRESS



I Am Canadian ... and I want to buy beer at the corner store? Mac's Convenience Stores says it would create 1,600 full-time jobs if its Ontario stores were allowed to sell booze. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

High River, Alta.

Floods force Canada's largest beef plant to halt slaughter

Flooding in southern Alberta has forced the largest beef plant in Canada to stop slaughtering cattle.

Cargill Ltd.'s facility outside High River depends on large volumes of clean water from the town's treatment plant, which hasn't been working since floods heavily damaged the community.

Brigitte Burgoyne, a company spokeswoman, said the meat packer stopped slaughtering cattle last Thursday and won't be able to resume until High River's water plant is fixed. "We are hoping to get the process up and running in the next week or so, but we still don't have a clear date as to when that will be," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 95.43¢ (+0.27¢)

TSX 11,951.90 (- 53.51)

OIL $95.50 US (+18¢)

GOLD $1,229.80 US (-$45.30)

Natural gas: $3.71 US (+6¢)
Dow Jones: 14,910.14 (+149.83)

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StorageMart

NOTICE OF SALE

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GTA CENTRAL – 416-701-0055 EXT2
GTA WEST – 416-503-0892 EXT2

Notice of Sale/Auction Date July 19, 2013

Storage-Mart #3017, 8929 Weston Rd. Woodbridge, ON L4L 1A6
#159 – A. Popal
#843 – S. Trogrin

Storage-Mart #3020, 345 Danforth Road, Scarborough, ON M1L 3X8
#3D – Louro Jewellers Inc.

Storage-Mart #3023, 25 Crouse Road, Scarborough, ON M1R 5P8
#4021 – E. Fontela

Storage-Mart #3026, 990 Syscon Rd, Burlington ON L7L 5S2
#C0068 Darious Rico Milan

Storage-Mart #3028, 10345 Keele St. Maple, ON L6A 3Y9
#3032 – S. Trogrin

Storage-Mart #3030, 3429 Kennedy Road, Scarborough, ON M1V 4Y3
#4305 – N. Luckovitch

Storage-Mart #3034, 996 Farewell Avenue South, Oshawa, On. L1H 6N6
#20C – R. McCarthy
#25S – S. Ritter
#81S – G. Bartholomew
#12WC – P. Price
#16WC – D & M.A. Chamberlain

Notice of Sale/Auction Date July 24, 2013

Storage-Mart #3007, 542 Evans Ave, Etobicoke ON M8W 2V4
#2634 – Roy Roach
#2532 – Marek Goldyn
#5119 – Diana Chudoba-Lacroix
#3408 – William McKellar
#5143 – Rob Scott

Storage-Mart #3009, 110 Guided Crt, Etobicoke ON M9V 4K6
#F0052 –Hamza Aromolaran
#A0084 – Richard Da Silva
#A0081 – Tara Ruddock
#A0044 – Westland Supermarket
#C0013 – Chitanand Singh
#F0097 – Andrea Francis
#F0069 – Immonie Joris
#D0047 – Silvern Simons
#C0058 – Christopher R Stockton,
#C0021 – Aldo Ciufo
#P11 2216697 – Ontario Inc.

Notice of Sale/Auction Date July 26, 2013

Storage-Mart #3008, 680 Kipling Ave, Etobicoke ON M8Z 5G3
#1221 – Adam Mroziewicz
#4044 – Ida Caparelli

Storage-Mart #3013, Todd Baylis Blvd, T oronto ON M6M 4L2
#1449 – Dragoljub Stojanovic
#2006 – Tyrone Brown
#2009 – John Morgan
#3061 – Alice Hosten
#3210 – Beata Joseph
#2327 – Alex Brown
#3052 – Alexandre Ferreira
#3052 – Yury Barysevich

Storage-Mart #3014, 555 Trethewey Dr, Tor ON M6M 4B8
#E1089 – Eulalee Stenett
#E1042 – Veronica Samuels
#E1011 – Virginia Pollock
#E2076 – Azali Mizan
#E2025 – Frank Caesar
#E1018 – Brent Henderson
#E1002 – Michael Miller
#D2280 – Cyril Fortune
#D2039 – Naisha Bangura
#D2009 – Darryl Williams
#P582 & #F025 – FDP Group Inc.,
#E2315 & #E2298 – Chanti To,
#E2291 – Leiuhton Smith
#E2178 – Leonora Iozzo
#E2152 – Cyril Knight
#D2355 – Ange Kalenga-Kaniki,
#D2271 – Michael Marcuzzi, #D2145 – Sovereign Cleaning Service c/o Francis Yong
#D2061 – Craig Cruden
#D2006 – La Keisha Cato
#P587 – Nicholas Giannantonio,
#P518 & #P517 – Harold McCarthy
#401 – Stuart Cowan
#349 – Alfonso Zamora

Storage-Mart #3015 , 120 Wicksteed Ave, Tor ON M4G 4K7
#1700 – Terra Pilon
#B4406 – Michael Nkomo
#2600 – Kimberly Nowosad Penner
#2502 – Marcus Stark
#B4710 – Vladimir Kukic
#B3216 – Fred Ludwig
#B1002 – Natalie Henrie
#B4423 – Stewart Eadie
#B1324 – Martha Crowley
#B1307 – Martha Crowley
#1623 – John Mc Gee

Storage-Mart #3018, 605 Alden Rd, Markham ON L3R 3L5
#1909 – Michelle Wong
#2641 – Febe Yap
#2991 – Superna Shahi

Storage-Mart #3025, 875 Don Mills Rd, Toronto ON M3C 1V9
#1129 – Arindam Basu
#1727 – Reginald Mclean
#2211 – Ashley Rabang
#1607 – Jeremiah Kiriopoulos
#2602 – Uloma Ibegbulam

Notice of Sale/Auction Date July 30, 2013

Storarge-Mart #3021, 1776 O'Connor Dr. Toronto, ON M4A 1W8
#1259 – T. Edwards
#2211 – R. Andrews
#2212 – G. Gonczi
#2421 – S. Murray-Anderson
#3511 – S. Ramsay
#2027 – J. John
#2201 – B. Reddick
#2423 – E. Robb
#2542 – J. Mcdonald

Storage-Mart #3022, 947 Warden Avenue, Scarborough, ON M1L 4E3
#1063F – T. Cormier
#1078 – D. Pathay

Storarge-Mart #3024, 81 Arrow Road, Toronto, ON M9M 2L4
#1203 – E. Taylor
#6038 – M. White
#1316 – K. Lawrence
#2081 – A. Tuah
#2170 – D. Edwards
#6002 – A. Ljora
#1243 – D. Thornington

Notice of Sale/Auction Date August 2, 2013

Storage-Mart #3031, 4780 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, ON M1S 3V6
#1035 – A. Leo
#2019/2057 – M. Dumphrey
#2105 – S. Suntharalingam
#2378 – C. Penton
#3062 – C. Zois,
#4036 – C. Shaw
#5011 – M. Ewere
#5019 – M. Trotter
#7043 – U. Sivakanthan
#8208 – B. Charles

Storage-Mart #3032, 85 Westney Road S., Ajax, ON L1S 2C9
#3121 – B. Rose
#5100 – A. McCloud
#7014 – J. Erickson
#7105 – J. Reich,
#8112 /8159 – T. White
#9148 – K. Wiltshire

Storage-Mart #3033, 1700 Alliance Road, Pickering, ON L1W 3X2
#B18 – C. Zois
#B53 – P. Baker
#E32 – A. Purcell
#E54 – T. Garrison,
#I13 – N. Douse
#B48 – M. Stewart

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According to the Lease by and between the customers listed above and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s) UPON A COURSORY INSPECTION THE UNITS WERE FOUND TO CONTAIN: Household goods, furniture, and misc. items. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of at this site on July 19, 2013 at approximate times listed by the addresses above to satisfy owner lien in accordance with the Provincial statues. Terms of the sale are CASH ONLY, no cheques will be accepted. All goods are sold in "as is condition". Tax must be paid or resale numbers furnished. Buyers must provide own lock if needed. Seller reserves the right to overbid. All items or spaces may not be available on date of sale. Please call 416-701-0055 Ext 2 for auction times.

TAKE THE ROAD LESS ARGUED

HE SAYS
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

As I get older, I fear I may be slipping into the deep, dark abyss of bright, easy vacations.

The horror, the horror.

I'm in Amsterdam at the moment, and it's about as easy as it gets, unless you're allergic to bicycles, fear small serving sizes and can't tolerate tolerance. (Toronto Mayor Rob Ford would hate it here.)

I've always prided myself on my ability to fling myself into strange places with just a tent and a backpack and my wits — all three smaller than you might imagine. But more and more often when I travel I find myself striving for the easy way in. Niagara Falls, not Victoria Falls. Hotels, not hostels.

It makes me vaguely sad, and has me worrying I'll regress into that guy on the tour bus with the Hawaiian shirt asking if "you all get McDonald's around here."

I've been having a running debate with myself during this trip about the "right way" to travel. If you've never been to the Munk Debates, it's just like that. If you have been to the Munk Debates, never mind.

It goes like this:

Easy: Vacationing should be easy, duh. That's why it's called a vacation. Probably. I'm lying here on vacation and I'm too lazy to look it up.

Hard: Get up you sack of suet. Travelling should be a challenge. I can relax at home. I see Facebook cover photos of people's toes on beaches and their feet scream at me like Chekhov's gun. Use them before it's too late!

Easy: Gee, you sound like a blast to travel with. If you have the means to enjoy yourself, do it. Don't deny it because of some misguided need to feel cool. You're like the guy that orders suicide wings just to say you did, even if it's as enjoyable as getting a live chicken to peck at your face.

Hard: At least that's a story to tell. You have a whole world to explore, full of wonders and dangers and excitement, and when you come back all you'll be able to say to people is that it was "nice."

Easy: It isn't always easy. I just paid four euros for 200 milliliters of Pepsi. Who wants 200 ml of anything?

Hard: Well, that's certainly worthy of Jacques Cartier. Do you think you'll be OK?

Easy: You're such a snob.

Hard: Snob?

Easy: Snob.

(Reminder: Just like the Munk Debates.)

Easy (cont.): You treat travelling like a private club, where the only people deemed worthy are ones who have seen enough to be considered cool, like there's a velvet rope around developing countries or something. I don't need a VIP ticket to see the Earth, snob.

Hard: You know what's snobby? Expecting to be waited on hand and foot by people making crap money while you lounge around doing nothing. All you need is a vomit bucket and you're Julius Caesar. And from what I've heard about cruise ships, you might need that bucket.

Easy: I don't want to argue anymore. I'm on vacation.

Hard: I'd rather be challenging myself anyway. Let's get a drink.

Easy: 200 ml of Heineken would go down easy. You're paying.

Hard: That's what I'd prefer.

(Reminder: If you'd like a transcript of this important debate, you should get out more.)

ZOOM

One way to get ahead in life

SAN ANTONIO ZOO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two-headed turtle makes its debut

Thelma and Louise, a two-headed Texas cooter turtle, is seen at the San Antonio Zoo. Zoo officials on Tuesday said the Texas cooter was born June 18.

The turtle was one of several Texas cooters born this month at the zoo, but the only one with two heads. The zoo is no stranger to two-headed reptiles. The facility was home to a two-headed Texas rat snake named Janus from 1978 until the creature's death to 1995.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Let's put our heads together

- Zoo spokeswoman Debbie Rios-Vanskike said the two-headed turtle appears healthy and is able to swim and walk. She says experts at the zoo don't foresee any health issues for Thelma and Louise, named for the female duo in the 1991 Oscar-winning road movie of the same name.

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

Are you tired of composing text messages with 26 measly letters and a few punctuation marks? Give these apps a spin to add some visual flair to your texting game.

Emoji:

While most North Americans are familiar with the iconic (-: smiley face, Japanese texters have taken pictographs to a whole new level. Newer iPhones actually have a built-in emoji keyboard (you just have to enable it under the international keyboards setting), but there are a host of apps available for Android users and Apple laggards.

SMS Rage Faces:

Popular on social sites like Reddit and 4chan, these pictures can be used to express the full gamut of online emotion, from rage at reading the comments section to the shock and awe of a cute cat gif. The iOS edition even integrates with your camera to let you stick pics on top of your friends' faces.

Look of Disapproval:

Similar to Rage Faces, this app lets you copy and paste all kinds of unicode emoticons into your texts. From Big Ears Sad Look to Hitler Look Of Disapproval, there's something for everyone.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Coca-Cola will try to get Brits to swap their morning coffee for pop. Would you make the switch?

@theunshakable1: Why? The British bad teeth stereotype isn't bad enough? Really trying to drive that point home...

@FrenchmanCanada: Totally! I've always wanted to be morbidly obese and contract diabetes.

@LauraBabcock: barf

@GiseleLumsden: Really? Eww

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SCENE

Method to Madonna's madness

Truth/Dare: A Satire. Co-creator Adamo Ruggiero channels love for pop star's famously staged doc into a rehashed version for the stage

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

Actor Salvatore Antonio is the star of Truth/Dare: A Satire (with Dance). SAM PRYSE-PHILLIPS

Musicians go to great lengths to tweak their "story" in the name of authenticity. But in a world populated by faux-gangsters and Ivy League educated trust-a-farians, few hold a candle to Madonna and her 1991 tour doc, Truth or Dare.

"Madonna is very calculated," says Adamo Ruggiero, former Degrassi: The Next Generation cast member and co-creator of Truth/Dare, a live, mixed media restaging of the famed doc. "It was all perfectly staged."

Truth or Dare was Madge's piece de resistance in media manipulation, "exposing" the singer as a narcissistic and downright terrible human being. But not only did she sign off on the whole thing (she was both a producer and narrator), according to her brother's biography, many parts were staged for the cameras.

"She chose to invite people in," says Ruggiero, "which is a very different way of looking at the personal lives of celebrities which (today) is more like a peeping Tom."

It's this intersection of art and artifice that intrigued Ruggiero and his creative partner, and the show's star, Salvatore Antonio.

Ten actors, including This Hour Has 22 Minutes' Gavin Crawford, play multiple roles, reading from their adapted script. The audience is encouraged to dress up and yell out lines; the film's musical interludes are also recreated.

"It's a show-concert."

Truth/Dare casts the film, at the time of its release the highest grossing documentary of all time, in a satirical light, slipping it into the world of Rocky Horror cult fandom. It's Ruggiero and Antonio's dream to be able to travel with the show, stage it in different communities and invite local artists to give their take on the material.

"Truth or Dare was a carefully constructed presentation of her life," says Ruggiero. "It was an art piece and she was no fool."

Truth/Dare: A Satire (with Dance) Tonight at 8 p.m. Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St. $20. Buddiesinbadtimes.com. A portion of proceeds goes to the Toronto People With AIDS foundation.

Local highlight

Like a Virgin continues to be a controversy.

- **Police action.** Perhaps one of the most enduring images from the doc for Torontonians is the scene where Toronto Police threaten to arrest Madonna if she performs a simulated masturbation scene during Like a Virgin. Madonna refuses and the police later deny they were even on site. Naturally, it's a highlight of Ruggiero and Antonio's reimagined staging. "It's super cool to have a specific Toronto significance to the film. It's definitely a favourite part: the fascist state of Toronto."

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Dale flashes his Badge of honour this summer

James Badge Dale isn't a household name, though he did star in AMC's short-lived but acclaimed Rubicon. But he's everywhere this summer. In Iron Man 3 he played Eric Savin, the villain's main henchman. In World War Z he's a gruff soldier stationed in South Korea. And in the forthcoming The Lone Ranger he's the titular hero's older outlaw brother, whose code is a bit more morally grey. He also has a sizable role in Parkland, about the JFK assassination, with Zac Efron and Paul Giamatti. And he's soon to do a comedy with Joe Carnahan, who directed him in a memorable, upsetting death scene in The Grey.

James Badge Dale stars in three big summer movies. GETTY IMAGES

What was it like doing films on this scale?
They were three different experiences for me in three ways — three separate genres, three completely different characters and three different sets of obstacles. I don't know how to ride a horse. (The Long Ranger producers) had me show up six weeks early and learn how to handle weaponry. On Iron Man, I've never worked in front of a green screen.

What was that like? With most movies, at least the thing you're acting with is present.
Right, there's something in front of you. With green screen, it's not there. It doesn't exist. You have to trust the people you're working with. My experience on Iron Man was a beautiful learning experience. These guys — Robert Downey and Don Cheadle and Jon Favreau — they supported me, and taught me how to play and how to be free. It's as if you're six years old and nobody's watching you. You're just making stuff up. That's working on a green screen. You have to let go of any inhibitions.

Director Shane Black gave Iron Man 3, a mega-production, a distinct personality. He's got a very dark quick wit. He won't let it get cheesy. He always wants to push it into this dark realm. I went up to him one day and asked, "Are we getting too weird?" He said, "We can't get too weird."

How quickly do you get over acting with major superstars?
You don't have time for that. It's not like you're meeting the guy on the street. You're working with him. So you have to show up for work. Someone told me you don't want to work with a guy who isn't nervous. I've made this mistake where I try to act like I'm not nervous. It's OK to be a little starstruck. You just come prepared and have fun.

What's the difference with working on TV versus film?
The biggest difference with a film is there's a definitive ending. You know the beginning, middle and the end. You always know where you're trying to get to. With television, it's kind of a catch-22: If the show is successful it keeps going.

MATT PRIGGE/METRO

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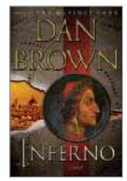

2. INFERNO Dan Brown

In the heart of Italy, Harvard professor of symbology Robert Langdon is drawn into a harrowing world centered on history's most enduring and mysterious literary masterpiece – Dante's Inferno.

Last Week: 2 / Weeks on List: 5

This Week		Last Week	Weeks on List
★ 3.	EYE OF GOD James Rollins	-	1
4.	THE GREAT DEGENERATION Niall Ferguson	4	2
5.	REVENGE WEARS PRADA Lauren Weisberger	5	4
6.	ZERO HOUR Clive Cussler	6	5
7.	SILVER STAR Jeannette Walls	3	3
8.	ONE HEART TO WIN Johanna Lindsey	8	3
★ 9.	BEAUTIFUL DAY Elin Hilderbrand	-	1
10.	DELICATE TRUTH John Le Carré	10	8
11.	THE SECRET RACE Tyler Hamilton	11	2
12.	FLIGHT OF THE EAGLE Conrad Black	12	6
13.	KILL ROOM Jeffery Deaver	7	4
14.	WAITING TO BE HEARD Amanda Knox	14	2
15.	TRANSATLANTIC Colum McCann	15	4
16.	WILD Cheryl Strayed	16	13
17.	LET'S EXPLORE DIABETES WITH OWLS David Sedaris	17	10
18.	RED SPARROW Jason Matthews	18	3
19.	BEST KEPT SECRET Jeffrey Archer	9	9
20.	DOUBLE CROSS Ben Macintyre	20	7

Combined Fiction and Non-Fiction Bestsellers for the week, ending July 2nd
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Putting his Stamp on

Tuned in.
Terence Stamp is a grumpy old man — but his job gets a little easier with the help of Vanessa Redgrave

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

British actor Terence Stamp has just about perfected cranky, whether it's in Superman 2, the Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert or the Limey. In his latest, Unfinished Song, he puts all that practice to good use playing the misanthropic but devoted husband of the sunny and cheerful terminally ill Marion (Vanessa Redgrave).

The film was originally released as Song for Marion. Why the title change?
Just Harvey (Weinstein), I think. I mean, he's a law unto himself, but he really seems to know what he's doing. He also re-cut the movie, and the director agreed that Harvey's take on it was better. I think Unfinished Song is rather nice, rather romantic. I haven't spoken to Harvey directly, but it was his idea.

How easy does it make your job when Vanessa Redgrave is playing your wife?
It's not easy, it's just a great blessing, really. A lot of people have remarked that the fact that we're this couple who've been together for 30 years is just kind of a given. It's not spoken about, you know? The thing about Vanessa is that after the first few days, between action and cut it was hard to really discern where my energy stopped and hers started.

Also, having you and Christopher Eccleston play father and son is inspired casting.
Yeah. When he was cast, I knew of him but I hadn't seen him recently, and my question to the director was, "How's his voice?" — meaning, "What's his dialect?" Because in England your dialect is a kind of class system, really, how you speak. Anyway, afterward I discovered that he was told that. So apparently what he did was he downloaded both of my Desert Island Discs episodes (a BBC radio show) and he listened to my voice, which is so astute. Because it's not me performing, it's me being myself talking about the music that I like. So when he rucked up on the set, he had my voice down pat.

In an interview last year, director Terrence Davies complained that young English actors are all trying to sound like they're from South London nowadays.
That's funny because that was what I had to lose. I thought, "I'm never going to be able to play Hamlet, I'm never going to be able to play Macbeth talking like that." I'm always amazed by the workings of the universe. It's like a wheel, isn't it? Everything turns round.

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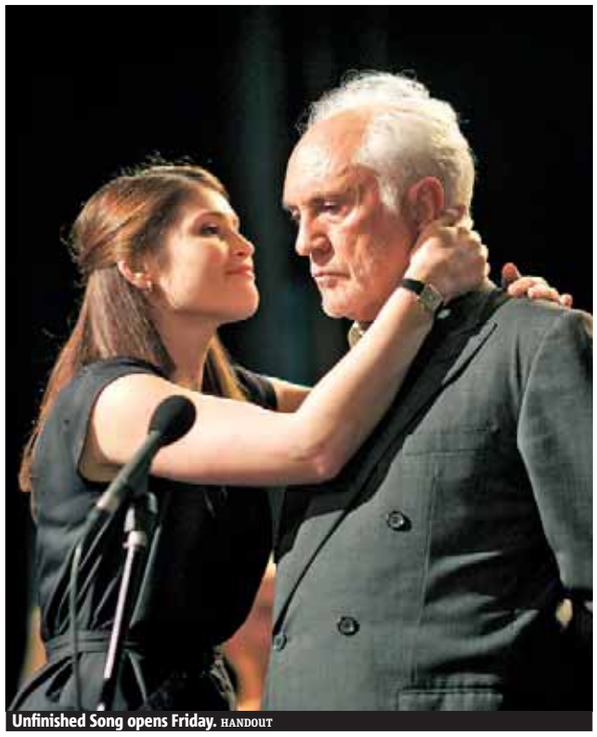
an Unfinished Song



Unfinished Song opens Friday. HANDOUT

What would Stamp take?

Now that Stamp is a little older, has his Desert Island Discs lineup changed much?

Oh yeah. The only thing that's really changed in my life that's been effected by technology is I have an iPod that my — well, she was my future ex-wife at the time — bought me and loaded up, you know? So that's the only thing I have that connects me with the modern world. I don't have a cell phone, I don't have a computer, but I have this thing that I travel with, and I've noticed that most times when I turn it on, I just want to listen to classical, really. Occasionally I want to listen to Nat King Cole or Frank (Sinatra) or Paul Desmond. This last year I've been rediscovering Elgar. I don't know what that says about me. Not much, I'm afraid. As my brother discovered the Who, and he was the first guy ever to record Hendrix, it doesn't say a lot about my heritage.

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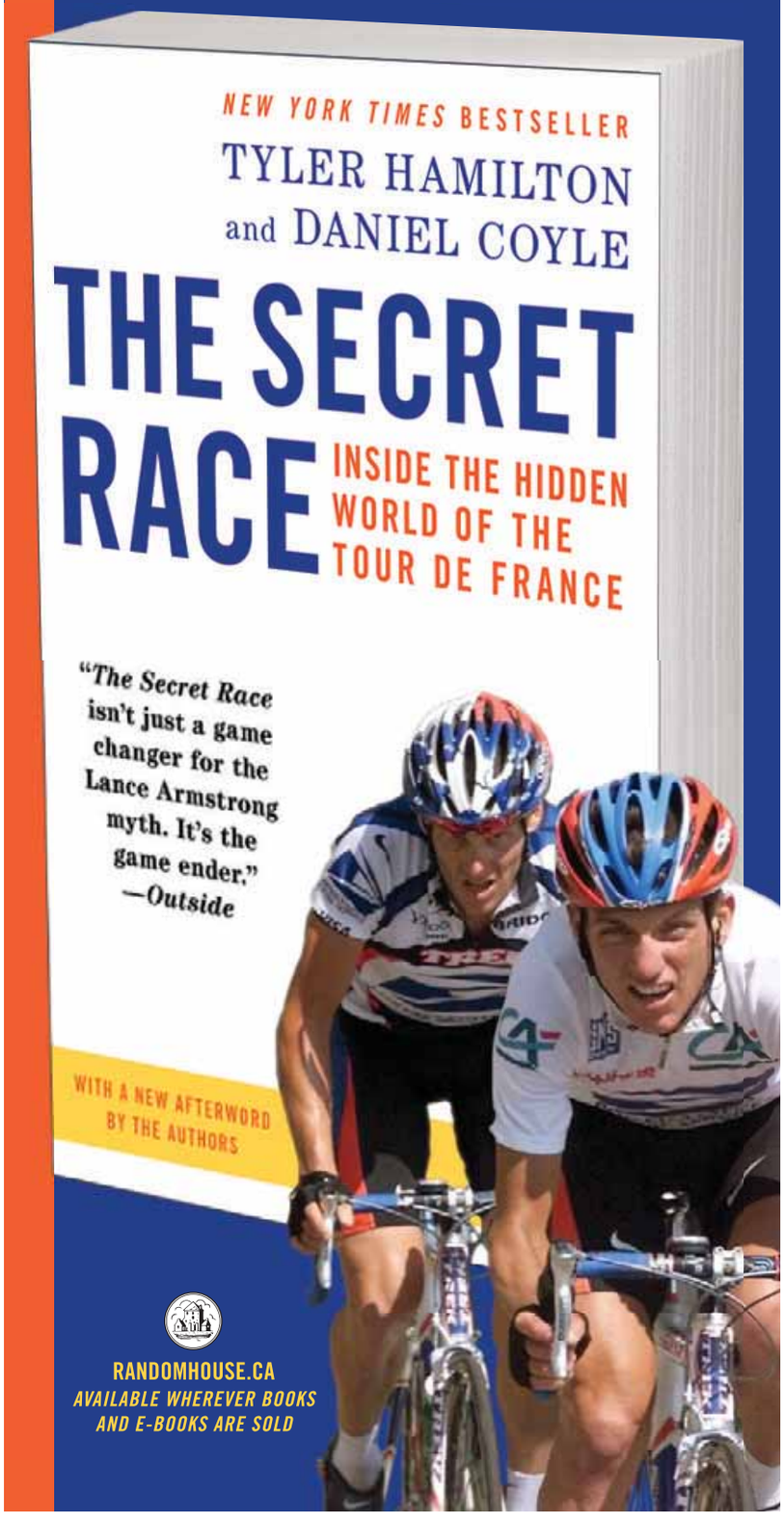
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The revolution that made us dance

Disco. On the quest for an R&B hit, Thelma Houston stumbled on something that made her boogie down

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Thelma Houston and Jamie Kastner star in The Secret Disco Revolution, which opens Friday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I knew it was a no-brainer of a subject," says director Jamie Kastner about the "boogie oogie oogie" topic of his latest documentary, The Secret Disco Revolution.

"Great pictures, great music. Kitschy, funny fashions."

As the words come out of his mouth he glances at the person sitting near him at the table; disco diva and co-star of the film, Thelma Houston.

"Thelma was never kitschy!" he corrects himself. "I didn't mean Thelma. That is an adjective that could never be applied to the woman sitting here. And, I've seen many of her hairstyles over the years."

Houston, the singer of the hit disco anthem Don't Leave Me This Way, doesn't think kitschy when she thinks about disco.

"I look back at it as a time when my record was at the height and a lot was going on, and everyone was having a good time," says Houston.

The song that made her a star, almost didn't happen, however.

"I was on the Motown label and everyone was trying to get that elusive R&B smash hit," she says. "I was there almost everyday, in the studio trying to come up with something. Then someone, Suzanne de Passe who was the A&R person at the time, came up with the song Don't Leave Me This Way and thought it would be a good dance song. We thought maybe this is the way to go.

"But then we had to take it to the chairman, Mr. (Berry) Gordy to have him listen to it and give us notes. Because I was friendly with Suzanne and her assistant they allowed me to go with them up to Berry's house. We were so sure of it. I'd be there, and he would see it was going to be a hit. I was so excited.

"Early in the morning we went up there to the mansion up in Bel Air. They played a couple of things, saving mine to the end. They put the song on. He listened and I'm sitting there looking at him. When he finished hearing it, he said, 'Hmmmm, no. I don't get it. I don't hear a hit.' I was so disappointed coming down off that hill but Suzanne felt very strongly about it and she put it out anyway and it was a hit.

"For me it wasn't just the disco era, it was like, 'Wow, I finally had a hit.'"

Quoted

"For me it wasn't just the disco era, it was like, 'wow, I finally had a hit"

Thelma Houston on relishing the success of Don't Leave Me This Way

*Offer valid until July 8, 2013. While supplies last. No rain checks. Selection may vary by store. Not all products available online. Not applicable on previous purchases. See store for details. **Pictures shown in frames sold separately. †Offer valid in b

Those happy party-goers in the back may not stay so smiley if Courtney decides to aim her ammo at them. GETTY IMAGES

No Love lost between Courtney and the world

Unfinished legacy. The rocker has choice words for promoters, former bandmates and, well, just about everybody else

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

When interviewing Courtney Love, you don't want to upset her, especially within the first minute.

We begin innocuously enough by asking about her current tour, which we saw listed on one venue's website as, "Courtney Love performing songs from Live Through This, Celebrity Skin & Nobody's Daughter including Violet, Miss World, Celebrity Skin, Malibu, Skinny Little Bitch & More!"

This is news to her, and she vows to let the responsible parties know her thoughts. "I'm gonna tear someone's f—ing head off," she says.

Through all of the tangents the rest of the call takes — and it takes many, from Rod Stewart to investment strategies — she keeps returning to this new info. And whatever commentary isn't about how her show was advertised is peppered with similar bitterness.

"If you want to see something really miserable, watch that Pixies reunion frickin' documentary," she says at one point.

Love insists this tour is not a greatest hits show. She says she has an album's worth of new material recorded and will be drawing from those songs.

"I'm not playing the singles though, which are the funnest ones," she says. "I don't want them to leak."

So if the only new songs she's playing are not the so-called funnest ones, how does she stay fresh?

"I stay fresh and dainty all the time, and I'm really good at taking baths," she jokes, picking apart the phrasing of this reporter, "but beyond that, I'm not ever going to do that oldies circuit thing ever."

You've been punked

"If you want to see something really miserable, watch that Pixies reunion frickin' documentary."

Courtney Love

The Hole story

Go on, take everything!

- Love says that since her last full release, the 2010 Hole album Nobody's Daughter, she has given up the Hole moniker and the idea of any sort of reunion with the formative lineup, which included drummer Patty Schemel, guitarist Eric Erlandson and bassist Melissa Auf der Maur.
- "I would be happy — as much as I love Shawn (Dailey, bassist) — to take Melissa back, but Melissa won't do it unless Eric does it, and I'm not doing it with Eric," she says at an uninterruptible pace. "I just won't do it. The guy went into my storage, took 74 guitars out of storage, took my entire backline, which is Kurt's backline, so one side says Hole, the other side says Nirvana. ... I'm about to start pressing charges against him on like, robbery, a whole bunch of criminal matters. ... I really can't envision touring with that a—hole, so that's the end of that."

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METROLINX

Sitcom vet's return will make for a good Knight

The Exes. Seinfeld's Newman and Jurassic Park's Dennis Nedry may define Wayne Knight but there is more to his career and him than those nasty guys

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York City

Wayne Knight's legacy is sealed, thanks to two major contributions to 1990s culture: Newman on Seinfeld and greedy Dennis Nedry in Jurassic Park. Knight returns to sitcom work with TV Land's The Exes, now starting its third season, which also reunites him with his Third Rock From the Sun co-star Kristen Johnston. But like many old workhorses, there's more to him, including films, shows and Broadway work. For instance, did you know he was on a 1980s sketch comedy show with Emma Thompson?

What's it like returning to sitcoms?
Basically the nature of the job is equivalent to stealing. Once you've learned how to pilfer, you remember how to do it, it's highly profitable, and it takes little effort.

You've said one thing you like about your Exes character is he's a bit opaque, and you can play him in different ways.
This season we get to see a bit more variance. We peel away revelations about what his marriage was like. There's depth to him that doesn't show all the time. There's broadness at times. There's cynicism. It just depends on where he is in the plot.

Do you consciously try to avoid some of the darker tones of Newman or Dennis Nedry?
It's more in the public's eye than mine. I don't know if I'm as versatile as I'd like to pretend (laughs). The thing is if you play two iconic characters who are evil guys, if you do it well, then that's what people want to see you do. I spent 19 years trying to change that, but after awhile you just go, "Oh, whatever."

Do you have a strong rapport with your cast mates?
Everyone assumes that when you're doing a show with people, you're intimate and you're going to go over to their house and you go out on a boat together. That's not necessarily the case. Often times you'll have the wolf and the sheepdog thing — "Hi, Ralph," "Hi, Fred."

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Wayne Knight will star alongside former Third Rock From The Sun co-star Kristen Johnston in The Exes. GETTY IMAGE

Then you go home. I find that everything on this set gets along. We respect each other.

You started as a serious stage actor when?
I came to New York at 23, and was on Broadway for this play Gemini, which was a comedy. I honed my chops over three years of doing that play. What was fascinating to me (was) learning how an audience works. You just learn these things about comic timing.

One of your earlier shows — the 1985 British-American sketch comedy Assaulted Nuts — had you working with Emma Thompson. What was the experience of that show?
It was an interesting thing, partly because Emma Thompson was in it. This was before she became Dame Emma. We're still friends, because I just think when you find somebody like that you try not to let them go. It was three British actors and three Americans and it was airing simultaneously on Cinemax and Channel 4 in Britain. It sunk in the middle of the ocean, because you're trying to combine British and American sensibilities. I don't know if it worked, but it was fun to do.

As far as films, you were in two separate Oliver Stone movies: Born on the Fourth of July and JFK.
I had very little to do in Born on the Fourth of July. I had to push Tom Cruise into the Democratic Convention with John C. McGinley. We did this improv as we were shoving him through. I think Oliver was impressed I kept up with John C. He's a verbal gymnast.

What was Stone like?
It's kind of like if you drank a bottle of booze and woke up from a fetid, sweaty dream, and there was somebody in the room. That would be Oliver Stone (laughs). You respect him and are frightened of him.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Jennifer Aniston. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Aniston engagement on the rocks over East Coast row

Wedding bells may not be ringing after all for Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux, as their marriage plans have reportedly stalled due to a dispute over where to live, according to Radar Online.

"He suggested the couple could live in New York City part-time, no more than six months a year," a source says.

"Justin misses the Big Apple and his friends. His entire life was in New York, and he uprooted his entire life to move to L.A. to be with Jen. He thinks it's time Jen start to compromise, but she is absolutely refusing to live on the East Coast, even part-time."

The Word

Brown continues bumbling his way around

Jeez, rough week Chris. Just two days after being accused of assaulting a woman in a San Diego nightclub, Chris Brown has been charged with a hit and run as well as driving without a license by the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, according to E! News.

On May 21, Brown allegedly struck another car but refused to give his driver's license number and fled the scene.

His arraignment is set for July 15, and he faces up to six months in jail and a $1,000 fine for each offense. It's unclear how the new charges will effect Brown's ongoing probation for his assault of Rihanna.

Victoria Beckham

No acting experience, no problem

Victoria Beckham thinks her husband, David, can do anything — even be the next to play James Bond.

"I think you would be really good at acting. I think you'd be great," Victoria tells David during a joint interview with Chinese news station CCTV. "I think he should be James Bond. He'd be a good James Bond."

David isn't so sure another career is exactly what he needs right now, though.

"I have some friends who are actors," David says. "Tom Cruise is a very good friend of ours. But I don't think I have any plans to become an actor. I'm not sure I'd be very good at it."

REPLAY

Heidi Klum

Klum committed to making Seal extinct

What's more final than a divorce agreement? How about getting a tattoo removed. Heidi Klum is apparently really, truly done with ex-husband Seal, as recent photos of the model seem to show that she is in the process of removing a tattoo on her forearm that she got in 2008 to commemorate their fourth anniversary, according to Splash News. The tattoo is a stylized design of Seal's name, along with the initials of the three children they share.

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LEAF/VEER

MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES/VEER

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These days, most credit cards are enhanced with points programs designed to give customers something extra for their dollars spent. But when it comes to premium travel rewards, RBC Infinite Avion card is a step above the rest.

"Avion really brings the statement 'not all points are created equal' to life," says Andrea Metrick, director, retail credit cards, RBC.

Avion offers unmatched travel benefits with a policy of "any flight, any airline, anytime."

"Clients can easily redeem their points for travel even during peak times like March break," Metrick says. "There are no blackout periods or seat restrictions. And your points won't expire, so you can save up for a really big trip if you choose. This really resonates with our cardholders."

What do clients like most about Avion?

"Our customers are busy people who appreciate ease and convenience, but they also want flexibility and choice when it comes to redeeming their RBC Rewards points for travel and other rewards," Metrick says.

Clients have the option of converting points to WestJet dollars, British Airways Avios, American Airlines AAdvantage miles, Cathay Pacific Asia Miles, Shoppers Optimum Points, or Esso Extra Points.

Another advantage is the ability to earn bonus points for any travel-related purchase (flights, hotels, car rentals, etc.).

"Instead of the usual one RBC Rewards point for every $1 spent, you get an extra 25 per cent for travel purchases," Metrick says.

"Customers can earn points even faster when shopping online through the RBC Rewards eMall, an exclusive e-commerce site where they can access more than 250 Canadian and U.S. retailers and earn points up to five times faster.

"Avion also provides great opportunities to use points for merchandise, gift cards and RBC financial rewards," Metrick adds.

For example, a customer can convert their points to top up an RRSP or pay down an RBC loan or line of credit.

"It's this kind of flexibility that really puts Avion cardholders in the driver's seat."

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EVENTS, SHOWS, PLACES TO GO

CONTRIBUTED

DIGITAL DREAMS MUSIC FESTIVAL

June 29 to 30

Some of the world's biggest DJs will converge at Toronto's Molson Amphitheatre this Canada Day weekend. Featured performers include Porter Robinson, Excision, Doctor P, Damn Kids and many more. digitaldreamsfest.ca

CANADA DAY

July 1

Mel Lastman Square welcomes all this July 1st, as the City of Toronto celebrates Canada's 146th birthday. Special guests include hoop dancer Lisa Odjig, dance troupe Northbuck Krumping and She King. toronto.ca/special_events

TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL

July 3 to 14

Toronto Fringe is the city's largest theatre and performance festival, and this year's event will be the biggest yet, featuring 148 shows in 35 venues. fringetoronto.com

TORONTO OUTDOOR ART EXHIBITION

July 5 to 7

A juried showcase of contemporary fine art and crafts, now in its 52nd year. Admission to the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition is free. torontooutdoorart.org

SUMMERLICIOUS

July 5 to 21

Summerlicious features nearly 200 top Toronto restaurants, offering three-course, prix-fixe menus at reasonable prices. Reservations are being accepted now. toronto.ca/special_events/summerlicious

HONDA INDY

July 12 to 14

Honda Indy Toronto features an 11-turn, temporary street course, constructed throughout and around the Exhibition Place grounds. This year's event includes a full-length IndyCar race on both Saturday and Sunday. hondaindytoronto.com

SALSA ON ST. CLAIR

July 13 to 14

A two-day celebration of salsa dancing. Visitors to this street festival will enjoy a parade, plus Latin music and cuisine. They can take dance lessons, too. tltntv.com/events

SCOTIABANK CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL

(Formerly Caribana)

July 17 to August 5

Toronto's most colourful cultural event returns. The highlight, as always, is The Grand Parade: a celebration of Caribbean art and dance, set to the beats of live calypso, soca and steelpan music. caribanatoronto.com

THE ROGERS CUP

August 3 to 11

The world's best in Women's Tennis compete this August at the Rexall Centre — for a top prize of $426,000 and 900 WTA points. rogerscup.com

TASTE OF THE DANFORTH

August 9 to 11

An all-ages extravaganza, Greektown Taste of the Danforth, sponsored by Pilaros, is a street festival offering Torontonians the best in Hellenic food, games and music. tasteofthedanforth.com

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION

August 16 to September 2

The Ex is back with all the rides, games, concerts, food, arts and crafts, and agricultural displays Torontonians have come to know and love. Concerts are free with admission. theex.com

SCOTIABANK BUSKERFEST

August 22 to 25

BuskerFest has a new home this year: downtown Yonge Street. From clowns and acrobats to jugglers, stilt-walkers, magicians and more, Toronto's last major summer festival gives visitors lots of lasting, great memories. torontobuskerfest.com

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SAMPLE THIS SUMMER SMOOTHIE WITH A TWIST

One of the best things about summer is being able to enjoy delicious beverages featuring your favourite fresh fruit.

But for those watching their waistline, it's refreshing to know that there are now naturally sourced calorie-free sweeteners made from the stevia plant. This arrival will let you enjoy many seasonal cocktails, smoothies and other drinks with less sugar.

Here's a delicious banana berry smoothie recipe made with a new product called Truvia.

SKINNY BANANA BERRY SMOOTHIE

Makes 4 servings.

Calories per 240 mL serving = 110.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (250 mL) strawberries
- 1 cup (250 mL) blueberries
- 1 banana
- 1 cup (250 mL) fat-free plain yogurt
- 1 cup (250 mL) orange juice
- 1 cup (250 mL) ice
- 1 tbsp. (15 mL) + 1⁄2 tsp. (2.5 mL) Truvia sweetener spoonable

DIRECTIONS

Add all ingredients to blender. Blend on high until smooth.

-News Canada

NEWS CANADA

NEWS CANADA

STEAK SUPREME

According to the recent Canadian Grill-Watch Survey, steak continues to reign as the all-time favourite barbecue item, according to 44 per cent of respondents, followed by hamburgers (35 per cent), chicken pieces (30 per cent), and hot dogs (16 per cent). Kick off barbecue season by grilling this mouth-watering steak recipe from Weber's New Real Grilling cookbook.

BEEF TENDERLOIN STEAKS WITH SEARED MUSHROOMS AND RED WINE VINAIGRETTE

Serves: 4
Prep time: 15 minutes
Grilling time: 14–18 minutes
Special equipment: perforated grill pan

INGREDIENTS

- 4 beef tenderloin steaks, each about 6 ounces and 1¼ inches thick
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 3 thick slices bacon, cut into ¼-inch dice (2 ounces)
- ⅓ cup finely diced red onion

Vinaigrette

- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 2 garlic cloves, minced or pushed through a press
- 8 ounces cremini mushrooms, stems removed, each cut into quarters
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh chives

DIRECTIONS

Brush the steaks on both sides with oil and season generously with salt and pepper. Allow the steaks to stand at room temperature for 15 to 30 minutes before grilling.

Prepare the grill for direct cooking over high heat (450° to 550°F) and medium heat (350° to 450°F) and preheat a perforated grill pan over medium heat.

In a skillet over medium-low heat, cook the bacon and onion until the bacon is crisp, 6 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from the heat.

Combine the vinaigrette ingredients, including ¼ cup oil, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper; whisk until smooth. Put the mushrooms in a medium bowl and add ¼ cup of the vinaigrette. Mix well. Reserve the remaining vinaigrette.

Grill the steaks over direct high heat, with the lid closed, until cooked to your desired doneness, 8 to 10 minutes for medium rare, turning once or twice. Remove from the grill and let rest for 3 to 5 minutes.

Spread the mushrooms in a single layer on the grill pan and grill over direct medium heat, with the lid closed, until golden brown and tender, 6 to 8 minutes, turning once or twice. Don't move the mushrooms until the bottom sides are nicely browned.

Transfer the mushrooms to the skillet with the bacon and onions and warm over medium heat for about 1 minute, stirring often. Add the chives and mix well.

Serve the steaks warm with the mushroom mixture spooned on top. If desired, whisk the reserved vinaigrette and drizzle some over each steak.

- News Canada

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Wave goodbye to boring

You've got it braid. Sweating the summer 'do dilemma? Weave together a Hollywood mane-stay and every hipster's must-have hairstyle.

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

You love the Veronica Lake waves actresses such as Jessica Alba and Jessica Chastain sport on the red carpet, but you just can't get over a dreamy braid crown, either (especially as temperatures continue to rise). Jenny Balding, styling and grooming expert at Cutler/Redken Salons, says to combine the two. She shows us how to create a modern version of the popular retro trend by adding an oh-so-now braid to the mix.

"It's rock 'n' roll with the braid," says Balding. "And it's a way of getting the hair off your neck without having to do an updo." Bring on the outdoor weddings!

Jessica Alba sweeps it to the side while Jessica Chastain brings her red hot tresses to the red carpet. GETTY IMAGES

Hairdo how-to

- Create a deep side part. Blow out your hair with a big round brush to give it volume.
- Using a 1-inch barrel curling iron, curl your whole head, working from mid-length to the ends only. Hold the iron vertically and wrap small sections of hair around the barrel toward your face. Only when doing the front of the hair, or bangs, wrap your hair around the barrel away from your face.
- Once the hair has cooled, use a boar bristle brush to gently brush out curls.
- Next, section off hair underneath the part. Working at an angle, French braid the section halfway down the hair. Tie the braid with a clear elastic, such as Snag-Free Hair Elastics from Sephora, and sweep it across your shoulder underneath the waves.

Pre-style secrets

- Wash your hair the night before so it's clean but lived-in a little.
- Before starting, apply a volumizing lotion to the roots for body. Balding uses Redken's Rootful 06.
- For a polished finish, add a drop or two of argan oil from mid-length to ends.

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Time for Tea! A fund-raiser for St. Mary's U. #NovaScotia My hat is by Toronto's David Dunkley.

One-minute miracle

The Sun

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Ashley Kowalewski
TheKit.ca

FOR MORE FASHION AND BEAUTY NEWS YOU CAN USE, CATCH UP WITH THE KIT AT THEKIT.CA

Trends Report

- The Internet has turned many of us into virtual fashionistas, but with so many websites to navigate, online deals can be hard to keep track of. Go to Trends Report to learn more about how a Vancouver-based tech startup has created a tool to help organize all your virtual shopping trips.

Visit metronews.ca/voices/trends-report to find out more.

Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Jenni
Music teacher
Age:26

What she's wearing
Sele floral dress, vintage leather purse (from her Nona's closet), American Eagle shoes, H&M sunglasses and belt.

Her inspiration
"The weather and comfort. I like feeling fresh and being comfortable in what I am wearing. In the summer you can always find me in a dress, right now my closest consists of only summer dresses!"

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM – AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

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Here comes the guide

There are the stylish brides who wear the beautiful gowns and have their hair and makeup just so, and there are the stylish weddings, where everything from the bridal ensemble to the parting presents has the touch that makes it all seem special.

Vogue.com put together a wedding guide just in time for all those summer nuptials. The Associated Press asked editor Jessica Sailer Van Lith to put together a list of signs that the affair will be one to remember:

Vogue's The Wedding Guide.
VOGUE / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's personal
The wedding, from beginning to end, should seem like it belongs to the bride and groom, not like they've plugged into someone else's dream.

They've gone local
Couples can embrace the place they were so thoughtful in choosing by offering touches of local cuisine, decor or music.

The bride looks like herself
She shouldn't look for a "perfect dress" because there are too many of those, says Sailer Van Lith. What a bride should want is the right dress, and from there it should be easy to pick everything that goes with it, she says.

The seating chart makes sense
The seating chart is — and sort of should be — one of the most stressful parts of planning a wedding, but the payoff of success is huge. "At a stylish wedding, where someone has been thoughtful of the seating chart," says Sailer Van Lith. "All the guests will know the bride and groom have put them there for a reason: because they want these people from other parts of their lives to make a connection."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fashion in a flash

There's a Rachel for that

Forget a line of bellbottoms — Rachel Zoe is expanding her empire with a fashion app. The stylist/reality star/designer has partnered with social gaming company Crowdstar to launch Covet Fashion, a game that allows users to style virtual mannequins with current-season designer duds. But it isn't just about playing dress-up. Gamers can enter their looks into a styling contest — judged by experts such as Zoe — to win prizes including items straight off the runway. METRO

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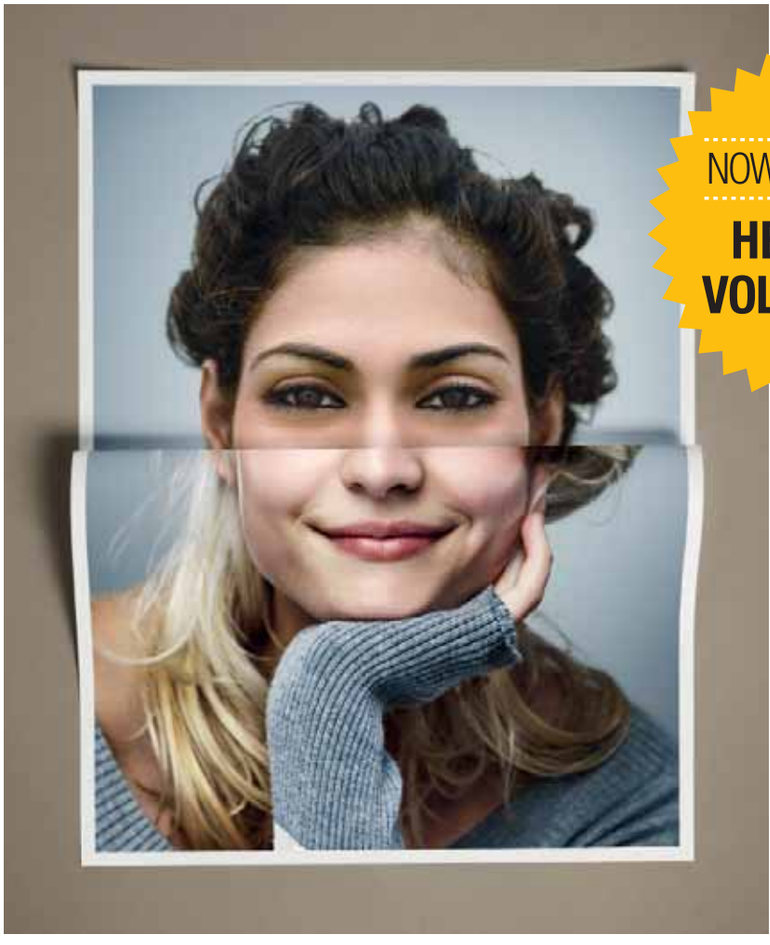
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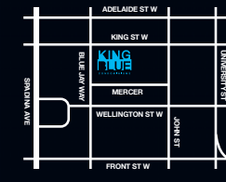

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Space-saving condo layout all about the cube design

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

There's a new condo trend that puts the "cube" in "cubist". Interior design firm Figure3 hatches a new space-saving condo layout that is destined to become a winner for Toronto's compact high-rises.

Just one look at the floor plan shows how the transformational Cube design frees up space.

The suite is built upon a unique design premise where everything is arranged around an inner core or cube. The bathroom, laundry room and kitchen are clustered together in the centre of the space. The concept takes cues from New York and Europe where smaller square footage is at a premium.

This transformational design offers condo owners maximum flexibility with fluid spaces for living, dining and sleeping around the cube core element. "The idea is that by pulling all the wet walls into the centre of the space, it allows you the flexibility to walk around it," says Suzanne Bettencourt, principal at Figure3.

The Figure3-designed Quartz-Spectra model suite by Concord Adex was recognized with an award of merit at the 2012 ARIDO awards.

The cube's centralized space plan allows for wider corridors that are more functional and double as walk-in closets. "The corridor going to the bathroom has the closet in it and becomes almost like a walk-in closet," says Bettencourt. "It's really also a circulation path into your bathroom and it also connects to your den as well." The Quartz-Spectra bedroom opens up to the living area through sliding glass panels, expanding the overall living space for spontaneous entertaining.

For developers, the cube design also saves on construction costs by consolidating stacks, therefore requiring fewer walls.

"The concept here was to allow people the flexibility to hide away their walls. Suddenly your living space and your bedroom space can be larger for entertaining purposes," says Bettencourt.

Recognized for their innovative design process, Figure3's view is that space is a strategic business asset and is well poised to bring a new way of thinking to Toronto's condo market.

The design firm got the idea from their experience with corporate office towers where shafts through the core of the building house all the plumbing, electrical and facilities.

According to Bettencourt, dining rooms are doing a disappearing act. "If you're going to be purchasing a one bedroom plus den, often the space is being compromised, particularly the dining area. What people are wanting is a den that can then convert into a dining room."

Figure3's design for the suite is built upon a unique floor plan where everything is arranged around an inner core or "cube". COURTESY OF FIGURE3

The cleverly designed Quartz-Spectra model suite by Concord Adex was recognized with an ARIDO award of merit. COURTESY OF FIGURE3

Late delivery of my condo

We purchased a pre-build condo back in 2010 and it was supposed to be ready for occupancy in the spring of 2013. Well, that date has come and gone and the builder has informed us of the delay, which looks like it will be closer to 2014. My wife and I have been living with my in-laws in anticipation of the delivery of our new home and it is not an ideal situation. Should we go out and rent an apartment based upon the projected new closing date?

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

The situation you are encountering is not unique. A lot of young couples forgo renting and live with relatives in order to save money and wait for the newly minted condo to be delivered. The problem is that construction is not an exact science and a majority of condominium developments do not deliver possession based on the projected completion dates in the original contract.

The problem with going out and renting an apartment for you is that you will have to sign an initial one year contract and this may put you over the actual date that you can take possession of your new home. Then, you would be stuck paying rent and occupancy fees. If you can handle your current living arrangement, I would suggest you hang on and save even more money so you can treat yourself to some new furniture when your unit is complete. Or perhaps you could search for alternate living arrangements that will not run an entire year.

Rooftop Surfing

Development charges increase will put burden on new home buyers

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

Affordability of a new home poses a significant challenge to new homebuyers in the City of Toronto. The cost of building a home is driven by a range of factors, one of which is government fees and charges, which in the city amount to nearly one-fifth the cost of a new home.

Right now Toronto City Council is looking at doubling development charges.

Development charges are used by municipalities to pay for new, growth-related infrastructure like roads, bridges, sewers, libraries and other public services. The City of Toronto is different from burgeoning municipalities in the 905 because much of its infrastructure is already in place. This makes it difficult to compare development charges rates to other municipalities in the GTA where new infrastructure is required.

As well, the high cost of land in the City of Toronto and the extra Land Transfer Tax added to new homes purchased in the city make affordability even more challenging for new home buyers.

While I understand the principle of growth paying for growth, it seems unfair to new home buyers to have to pay for the repair of existing infrastructure that will be enjoyed by all residents of the city for the next 100 years.

New home buyers are already doing their fair share. In 2012 alone, new homebuyers contributed more than $1 billion through development charges paid to municipalities for new infrastructure across the GTA.

Meanwhile the price of a new home in Toronto has seen a dramatic rise over years due to constrained land supply and housing choice in the market. New home sales have declined considerably as a result.

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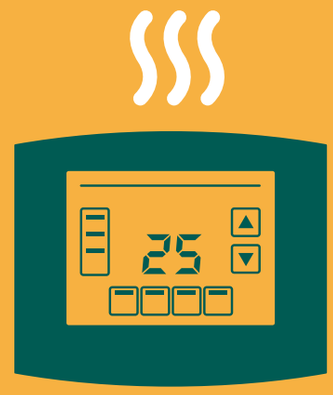

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Imagine yourself in this condo

Imagine condos is a mid-rise development in the Kennedy corridor. Units range from 477 to 962 square feet. SUBMITTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** Imagine condos
- **Builder.** insoho Developments
- **Location.** Kennedy and St. Clair in Scarborough
- **Website.** imaginecondos.com
- **Pricing.** From $179,900 to mid-$300,000s

The project overview

Inspired by European modernist architecture, this sleek new mid-rise brings panache to the Kennedy corridor. Urban developer insoho's designs have culminated in a selection of airy, spacious suite models, many with dens and powder rooms.

Location and transit

Hop on a bus right at the front door. Two subway stations are just minutes away. Walk to the nearby Scarborough GO rail station. Be in the downtown core within 40 minutes by transit or by car.

In the neighbourhood

The nearby Golden Mile Plaza has all the shopping you need. A great location for recreation. Walk or bike the trail system. Close to the water's edge with beaches, Bluffers Park and the Scarborough Bluffs Sailing Club.

Building amenities

The building features a rooftop terrace with barbecues, a party lounge with kitchen facilities and fireplace, a contemporary lobby and a fitness centre. There's also a landscaped parkette and bicycle parking.

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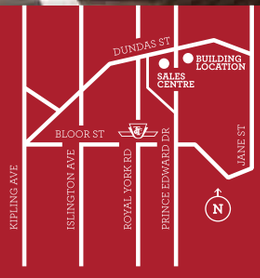

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What's hot on the condo market

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Realtor seminar: Is a real estate career for you? Find out at this informative presentation. 51 Wolseley St., near Queen and Bathurst. July 3 from 6 to 7 p.m.

CONTACT: REGISTER AT STOMPREALTY.COM/SEMINAR/SEMINAR

2. Yorkville

Open house: Pears condo in Yorkville. Luxury boutique mid-rise at 128 Pears Ave. Several suites and towns available. June 29-30 from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-489-2121

3. Yonge & Sheppard

Condo walking tour: join Joy and Fay Paterson for a Yonge and Sheppard condo buyer tour, July 4, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

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Late '70s punk style hits home

Never had the courage to be a punk-rocker in high school? Well here's your change to add a bit of alternative attitude to your life; this time it's not in the form of your clothing, but your home. Think British flags, acid wash, skulls, neon, black and white. Punk decor is one of the most glamourous decorating trends happening today, so get with the trend this time around!

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

A mix-matched flag motif adds a bit of British punk to your floors. Hey Jack carpet tiles. $18 each. FLOR.COM

Black, white and grunge all over; just add neon coloured sheets for a punk vibe. Graffiti 5-Piece Comforter Set, $70. HOMESENSE

Mid-century modern gets the rocker denim treatment. Chichester Accent Chair, $1,600. DECORIUM.COM

Pretty in pink — punk style. Large Insightful Skull Candle, $48. URBANOUTFITTERS.COM

Pricey but very designer-punk-chic! Porter Teleo's hand-painted Floral Graffiti Wallpaper, $52 per square foot. PRIMAVERA.COM

Shed some light punk-rock style, and paint the room all black while you're at it. Modern Switch's Skull Decor Light Switch Cover, $11. ETSY.COM

A rebellious art school dropout now making it big, Suzanne MacRury's Black & Red Slash 36x60 mixed media painting, $3,200. AGO.NET

Be the hippest (and driest) rebel around, Pasotti Skull and Crossbone Umbrella, $195. RAINDROPSTO.COM

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Make room on the barbecue for a new kebob

Dakka

Dakka is a mix of spices. In Flavours of Aleppo, dakka boasts allspice (40 per cent), ground black pepper (30 per cent), crushed cinnamon (10 per cent), whole cloves (10 per cent), whole green cardamom (5 per cent) and ground nutmeg (5 per cent).

1. With a vegetable peeler, peel the eggplants lengthwise in strips, leaving strips of skin between each peeled strip. Then cut the eggplants into rounds 1 1/2 to 2 inches (4–5 cm) thick. Set aside.

2. In a bowl, mix the meat, dakka and salt. Preheat the barbecue. Oil the grill well with vegetable oil. Make little meatballs about the same size as the eggplant rounds.

3. Skewer the eggplant rounds and meatballs alternately onto the skewers, slightly flattening the meatballs between the eggplant slices as you do so. Grill for 8 to 10 minutes on each side, until the eggplant is tender. Serve hot with pita and bell peppers or hot peppers.

4. For a softer flavour, precook the eggplant and meatball skewers on the barbeque. Remove the eggplant rounds and meatballs from the skewers and arrange them on a buttered baking dish. Dot with butter. Add 1/2 cup (125 ml) of water. Cover and bake in the oven at 350 F (175 C) for 30 to 45 minutes. **RECIPES PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM FLAVOURS OF ALEPPO: CELEBRATING SYRIAN CUISINE BY DALAL KADÉ-BADRA AND ELIE BADRA (WHITECAP)**

Kebobs and Eggplant

This recipe serves four to six. FROM FLAVOURS OF ALEPPO: CELEBRATING SYRIAN CUISINE

Ingredients

- 12 long, narrow eggplants
- 1 1/2 lbs (750 g) ground lamb or lean ground beef
- 2 tsp (10 ml) ground dakka
- 2 tsp (10 ml) fine salt

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Biscuits Mille-Feuille

Ingredients

- 13 oz (400 g) 72% dark chocolate
- 1 cup (250 mL) 35% cream
- 60 tea biscuits (purchased)
- 3/4 cup (185 mL) strong espresso coffee or orange juice
- raspberries, for garnish

1. Line an 8- × 8-inch (20 × 20 cm) pan with plastic wrap, draping the wrap over the sides.

2. In a pot, melt the chocolate on medium heat with the cream. Set aside half of the melted chocolate mixture and refrigerate.

3. Dip 10 biscuits in the coffee (making sure the whole biscuit gets dipped) and arrange in a layer on the bottom of the pan. Cover with a thin layer of chocolate. Repeat the biscuit and chocolate layers, making five layers and finishing with a biscuit layer. Bring the plastic wrap up over the biscuit to cover the Mille-Feuille (use more plastic wrap if needed). Refrigerate for 4 to 6 hours.

4. Re-melt the remaining chocolate and cream mixture on low heat. Remove the plastic wrap and turn the Mille-Feuille upside down onto a serving plate. Pour the melted chocolate overtop and decorate with raspberries. Let the chocolate set and become cold before serving.

Cookbook of the Week

A unique cuisine

In Flavours of Aleppo: Celebrating Syrian Cuisine, Dalal Kadé-Badra and Elie Badra explore the cuisine of the country's second largest city. Turkey, Greece, Armenia and the rest of the Levant have influenced Aleppian cuisine so the book includes versions of many classic Levantine dishes such as kabob, kibbeh (bulgar, onion and ground meat) and mezzes. Also among the recipes are nearly 100 meat and vegetarian main and side dishes, barbecue bites, desserts, sweets and even drinks. **METRO**

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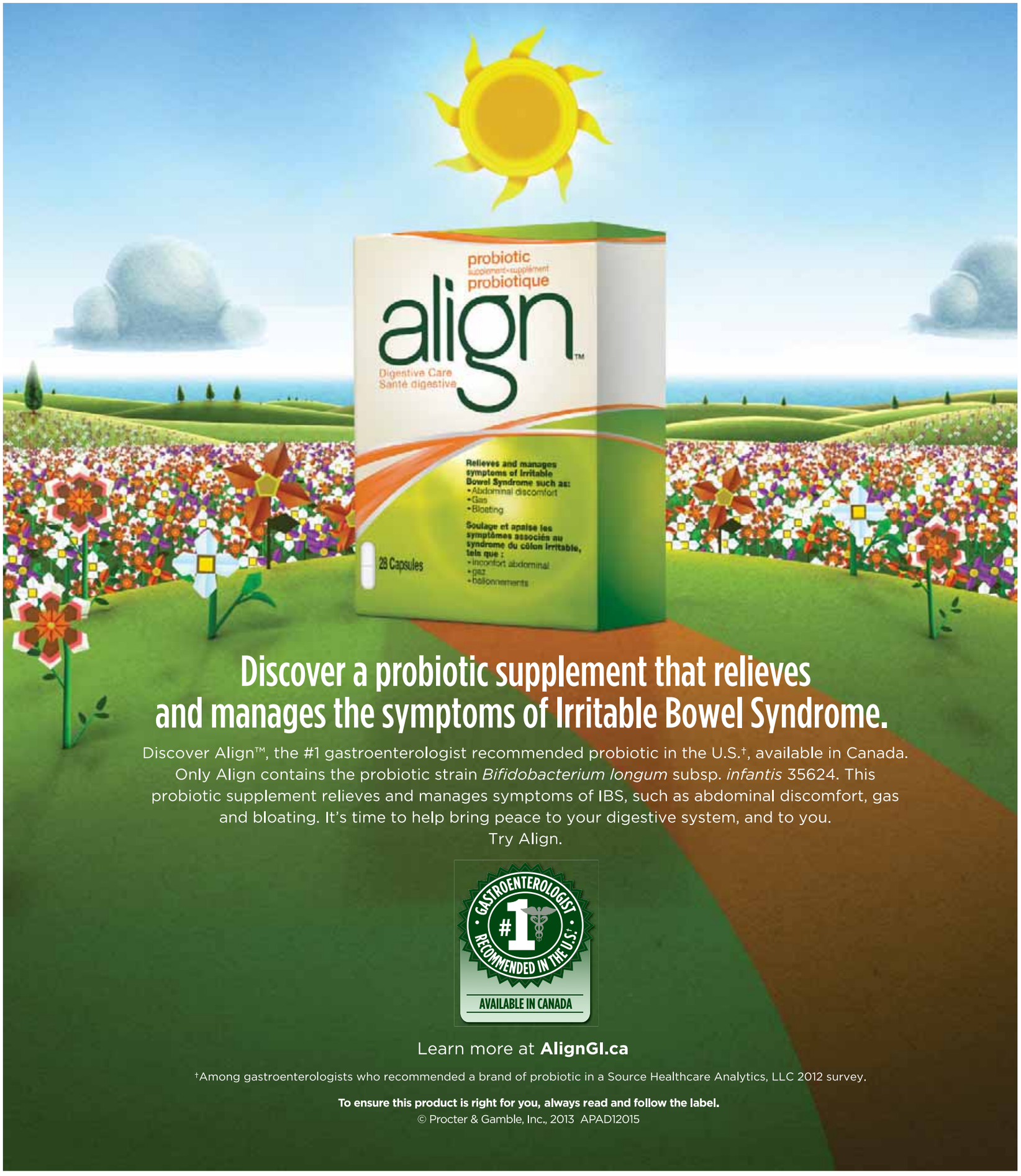

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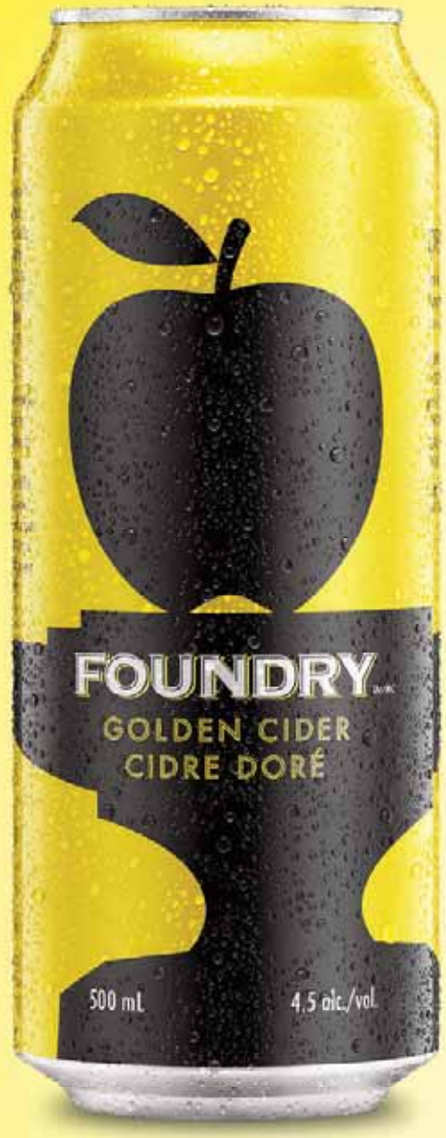

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4 SPORTS

NBA

Colangelo makes abrupt exit as Raptors president

Bryan Colangelo is stepping down as president of the Toronto Raptors.

The Raptors announced on Wednesday that Colangelo will remain as a consultant with the team and with Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment.

Colangelo joined the Raptors in February 2006 as president and general manager.

He was not extended as GM after Toronto ended its 2012-13 season with a 34-48 record.

The Raptors had reached an agreement to keep Colangelo on as president, but the 48-year-old said on further reflection stepping down was the best course of action. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Competitive endeavour'

AS Roma's 1st team coming to Toronto

AS Roma officials promise their trip to Toronto will be no casual kick-about.

Toronto FC hosts the three-time Italian league champions in a friendly Aug. 7 at BMO Field, a game Roma CEO Italo Zanzi said is key to their pre-season.

"This is not a vacation," Zanzi said Wednesday at a press conference in Little Italy. "It's a real competitive endeavour and something that also ties into our global brand building. Our first team will be on our tour, our first team will be playing.... You're going to be resting players, trying out players, but we're going to have our first team all throughout our tour."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Tremendous' return to Tropicana Field

MLB. Dickey pitches two-hit shutout, Reyes resumes shortstop duties as Blue Jays topple Rays

R.A Dickey, left, and Jose Reyes celebrate the Jays' win on Wednesday in St. Petersburg, Fla. CHRIS O'MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

R.A. Dickey baffled the Tampa Bay Rays again.

Dickey pitched a two-hitter for his first complete game of the year, Jose Reyes went 0 for 4 in his return from a two-month injury layoff and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Rays 3-0 on Wednesday for their 12th win in 14 games.

"I just concentrate on trying to produce a good knuckleball down in the strike zone for a strike, and today I was able to do that," Dickey said. "Mechanically, I was very repeatable, and you saw the results. They were hitting a lot of ground balls, I had a high strike percentage, so that's what I'm looking for."

Dickey (7-8) retired his first 13 batters before James Loney grounded a single with one out in the fifth. Yunel Escobar had a one-out single in the sixth, then was erased when Matt Joyce hit a double-play grounder.

"Tremendous," Jays manager John Gibbons said. "You could tell early on he had it going. That ball was dancing. Big break. We played a nice ball game and as good a game as you can pitch, I guess, unless it's perfect."

Dickey struck out six and walked one. The knuckleballer pitched a one-hitter for the New York Mets against the host Rays on June 13 last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Happy to be back

"Everything felt the way that I expected. I enjoyed being out there because I missed that for a long time."

Jays shortstop Jose Reyes, who returned from an ankle injury on Wednesday in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Tennis. Federer falls on chaotic day at Wimbledon

As tumultuous a day as professional tennis has produced in its nearly half-century history ended in the most unforeseeable, unexplainable way of all: A second-round loss by Roger Federer at the All England Club.

The seven-time Wimbledon champion and 17-time Grand Slam champ shuffled off Centre Court, his head bowed, his streak of reaching at least the quarter-finals at a record 36 consecutive majors snapped by a man ranked 116th.

His remarkable 6-7 (5), 7-6 (5), 7-5, 7-6 (5) loss to Sergiy Stakhovsky at the All England Club marked Federer's earliest Grand Slam exit in a decade.

"This is a setback, a disappointment, whatever you want to call it," said Federer, the defending champion. "Got to get over this one. Some haven't hurt this much, that's for sure."

Seven players left because of withdrawals or mid-match retirements, believed to be the most in a single day at a Grand Slam tournament in the 45-year Open era.

Federer was one of seven players who have been ranked No. 1 to depart, including Maria Sharapova, who lost 6-3, 6-4 to 131st-ranked Michelle Larcher de Brito of Portugal; Caroline Wozniacki; Ana Ivanovic; Jelena Jankovic; Victoria Azarenka; and Lleyton Hewitt.

All told, five players who have combined to win 26 Grand Slam titles headed home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roger Federer lost in the second round at Wimbledon on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may not be able to explain why something feels right but you know better than to ignore your instincts. Creatively and romantically, you are entering a positive phase. Own it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Don't worry too much about pleasing everyone today because chances are you won't succeed. Instead, decide what it is that needs to be done and just get on with it.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You would not be human if what you hear today does not bruise your ego, but you don't have to make a big deal of it. A week from now, it will have no meaning at all.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Someone you do business with will offer you some sort of deal, one that could make you a lot of money. That's great but keep your wits about you because it may not be as wonderful as they would like you to believe.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Venus, planet of emotional and material values, moves into your birth sign today and almost immediately your mood will improve. It will improve even more if you share your love of life with other people.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Unexpected events could disrupt your plans over the next 24 hours but it's nothing to worry about. While Mercury, your ruler, is moving retrograde you would be wise to take nothing at face value.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Venus, your ruler, moves into the friendship area of your chart today, encouraging you to be even more outgoing. A social event could lead to new experiences and maybe even a new relationship.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Cosmic activity in one the best areas of your chart helps you believe all things are possible. People may say you are being overly optimistic but that's not how you see it — and how you see it creates your reality.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There are many good things going on in your world, many opportunities waiting to be exploited. So why are you hesitating? There will never be the perfect time to take action, there will only ever be now.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Someone will make you a tempting offer and although you may want to take it, you can't help thinking there is a catch. Don't worry – there isn't.

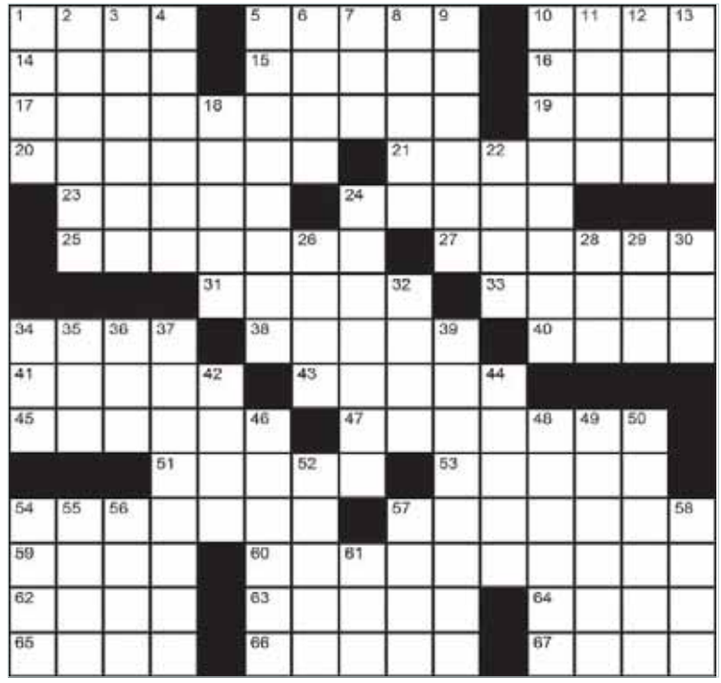
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Partnerships of all kinds are under good stars today, so if there is someone you want to get close to, one-to-one, now is the time to make your move. You're not as dispassionate as some people say. Prove it.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
No matter how much of an expert you are, there will always be someone who knows more than you. The planets suggest you will meet such a person today. Learn something new. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

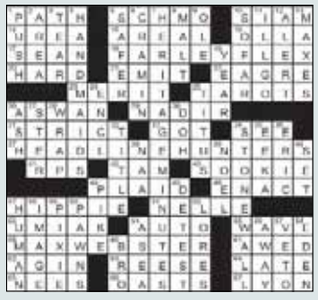
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Theo __, "Canadian Idol" Season 6 winner
5. "You can ___ horse to water..."
10. Jiffs
14. Norwegian king, variantly
15. Go on ___ (Try Jenny Craig, say)
16. Birthstone
17. Saskatchewan's CFL team's website, __.com
19. Greek salad cheese
20. Tidy up again
21. Kick up a fuss
23. Birth-related
24. Singer, Billy Ray __
25. Bee participant
27. Resounded
31. Boundary lines
33. "__ Tonk Women" by The Rolling Stones
34. Stoker of scary stylus
38. Son of The Munsters
40. Summers: French
41. Type of headache
43. MP from Newfoundland, Scott __
45. Plum __, Manitoba
47. One holding the retractable measuring device, say
51. Houston's home
53. People: German
54. Filing __
57. 1967 Sam & Dave hit: 2 wds.
59. CEO's "Quick!"
60. Michael J. Fox's "Back to the Future" (1985) role: 2 wds.
62. "__, Interrupted" (1999)
63. Carpentry tool
64. Caddie's pieces
65. Not difficult
66. Uptight
67. 'Scor' add-on

Down
1. Unit of pressure
2. Martians
3. Like a Marx Brothers comedy
4. Slender
5. "O Canada" music composer, Calixa __ (Director Martin)
6. __.-__-Chief (Newspaper job)
7. Garlic: French
8. Actress, Julie __
9. Pied-_-__ (Temporary housing)
10. Type of tap dancing
11. Bit of the French part of "O Canada": "Car ton bras sait porter l'__ / Il sait porter la croix!"
12. Some pets
13. Blinds strip
18. Domain
22. "Band-Aid ..quick!"
24. Lists at the end of movies
26. Approx. take-offs
28. Ottawa's prov.
29. Make money = __ out a living
30. Prefix to 'functional'
32. Earth's crust layer
34. Particular letters for a grad
35. Summer Olympics site in 2016
36. Babylonian sky god
37. In math, do this: x
39. Company's worker
42. Visible
44. No-__-__ (Biting midge)
46. Excused from
48. Fines
49. Money-from-the-wall charge: acronym + wd.
50. Tennis great Mr. Fraser's
52. Charles Dickens novel, __ of Two Cities: 2 wds.
54. Coop
55. __ Minor
56. Pubs
57. Catch trains at them, for short
58. NASDAQ rival
61. Sprinted

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

3			4	5	7			6
					6	9		
	1	7	3			2		
1	4		8		9	5		2
5								8
8		6	5		3		1	9
		5			4	8	2	
		4	9					
7			6	2	5			4

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	3	2	4	6	7	9	8	1
9	7	8	1	2	3	4	6	5
4	1	6	5	9	8	3	2	7
3	4	7	2	8	6	1	5	9
2	8	5	9	3	1	6	7	4
1	6	9	7	4	5	2	3	8
8	9	4	3	7	2	5	1	6
7	5	3	6	1	9	8	4	2
6	2	1	8	5	4	7	9	3

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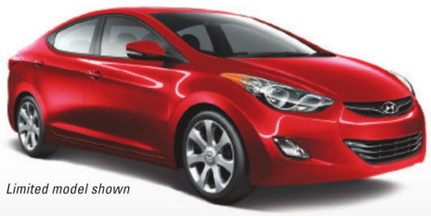

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